Senators OK 'rump' session bills, break impasse

Story on Page A2

Survivors of prison camps sue US gov't

CHICAGO—A group of American survivors of brutal Japanese prison camps in the Philippines during World War II filed a lawsuit in federal court on Monday accusing the US government of intentionally sacrificing them in 1941 to give the United States justification to enter the war.

The lawsuit on behalf of 598 plain-

SURVIVORS/A18

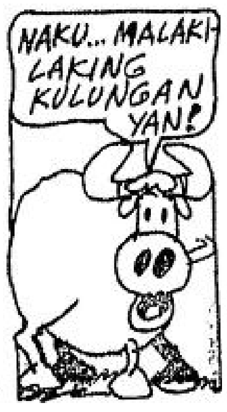
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Big cell ready for protesters

By Carlito Pablo

THE PHILIPPINE National Police is prepared to arrest and detain all demonstrators who violate the

BIG/A18



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It's not goodbye, Joe

Basilan execs, residents want American troops to stay

By Gerald Lacuarta
and Julie Alipala, *PDI Mindanao Bureau*

BOTH the big brass and the brass bands will be out in force today in Zamboanga City, to bid US troops taking part in Balikatan 02-1 a rousing, even emotional, goodbye. But the Americans are not really leaving—at least not all of them.

The 160 US soldiers who trained Filipino troops in Basilan are staying in the island until October, to monitor the first phase of the "Long Term Security Assistance Package Program," Maj. Richard Sater said yesterday.

"We'll be staying here until October," US Capt. Tom Giglio said earlier.

Nine hundred more soldiers will be stationed in Zamboanga and Cebu cities for similar duties, said Sater, spokesperson for US troops.

Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Satur Ocampo, a critic of the RP-US military exercises, said US forces were not really saying goodbye. "It has been announced that 160 special operation forces of the US military will be staying behind after July 31 in Basilan and in Sulu, where aerial bombings and massive troop military operations have already wrought considerable havoc on the lives of the people," he said.

"We have also learned that the presence of US troops in Mindanao has spread to the north, with 1,700 US troops currently active in Central Luzon, particularly around the former US bases of Clark and Subic," he added.

Ocampo led about a thousand demonstrators protesting the presence of US troops in a rally in Zamboanga City yesterday. Tension ran high after pro-Balikatan supporters stoned the so-called Peace Caravan the other night, injuring at least five. ***(See cartoon story on this page.)***

Sater confirmed that only the 355 naval engineers—the Seabees who arrived in May

IT'S NOT/A6

A FIERY welcome for US Secretary of State Colin Powell is being prepared by militant groups like the KMU who persist in their protest against US military presence and denounce President Macapagal for allegedly protecting American interests at the expense of the national interest. JOAN BONDOC

AFP produced fall guy, says rights lawyer

By Gerald G. Lacuarta
and Julie S. Alipala, *PDI Mindanao Bureau*

THE MILITARY produced a fall guy, "who somewhat fits the description of the US trooper who shot Buyong-buyong Isnijal, but not quite."

So claimed a New York civil rights lawyer, David Pugh, who's one of the 40 foreign delegates from 13 countries of the International Solidarity Movement (ISM) that has been probing human rights violations allegedly committed under Balikatan 02-1, the joint Philippine-American military exercise.

A Sgt. Joel Millarosa had come forward to admit shooting Buyong-buyong Isnijal last Wednesday during an anti-Abu Sayyaf operation in Lantawan, Basilan. He claimed that Isnijal, an Abu Sayyaf suspect, attacked him with a bolo.

"Millarosa's brown, and not black, and the witnesses say that the soldier who shot Buyong-buyong had very black skin, and in any case, why would a Filipino soldier yell 'sit down, sit down!' to fellow Filipinos?" Pugh said.

The ISM claimed that it was a S/Sgt. Reggie Lane who shot and wounded Isnijal.

AFP/A6

OLD refrain from new Cabinet member Blas Ople: No US basing rights. MLSA is simply for accounting purposes. EDWIN BACASMAS

House wants MLSA briefing from Powell

By Juliet L. Javellana
and Cynthia D. Balana

FEARING that Malacañang is not telling them the truth, members of the House of Representatives want to hear it directly from the horse's mouth.

They are seeking a dialogue with US Secretary of State Colin Powell about the Mutual Logistics Support Arrangement (MLSA) amid Malacañang's denial that the final draft of the agreement would give basing rights to the United States.

Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos, who delivered a speech on the MLSA on Monday assailing the alleged basing rights of the United States, made the formal request in a letter to US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone.

She said she made the request on behalf of members of the House committee on foreign relations.

"While aware of the secretary's hectic schedule, we are convinced that the urgency and significance of the alleged (MLSA), the Balikatan exercises and other matters relating to Philippine-American relation warrant an early dialogue," she said in a letter coursed through Foreign Secretary Blas Ople.

House Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II said it would not be proper to grill Powell in the House. But Gonzales said he would favor an "informal briefing" for legislators outside the House.

Marcos, vice chair of the House foreign relations committee, said she sought an audience with Powell in the face of Malacañang's refusal to release the contents of the draft MLSA.

"All we get from Malacañang are denials and denunciations. So we are asking if the legislators can have a dialogue with

HOUSE/A18

'First-class' insults mark Picop 'war'

By Juliet Javellana
and Gerald Lacuarta

THE WAR of attrition between Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez and his critic Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr. dragged on yesterday, with Pichay phoning in a rebuttal from San Franciso, California.

"If I am a first-class influence peddler, Alvarez is a first-class extortionist. He doesn't deserve to be in the Cabinet," Pichay, the congressman of the second district of Surigao del Sur, said.

Pichay telephoned the INQUIRER to deny Alvarez's accusation that he was using his influence with Malacañang to force Alvarez out of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

He said he had not spoken with the President about sacking Alvarez. The other day, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye hinted that Alvarez, who has yet to be confirmed by the Commission on Appointments, was on his way out.

But "lumad" or indigenous people of Surigao del Sur backed Alvarez yesterday, say-

FIRST-CLASS/A19

SEC lifted 'cease-desist' order on CAP

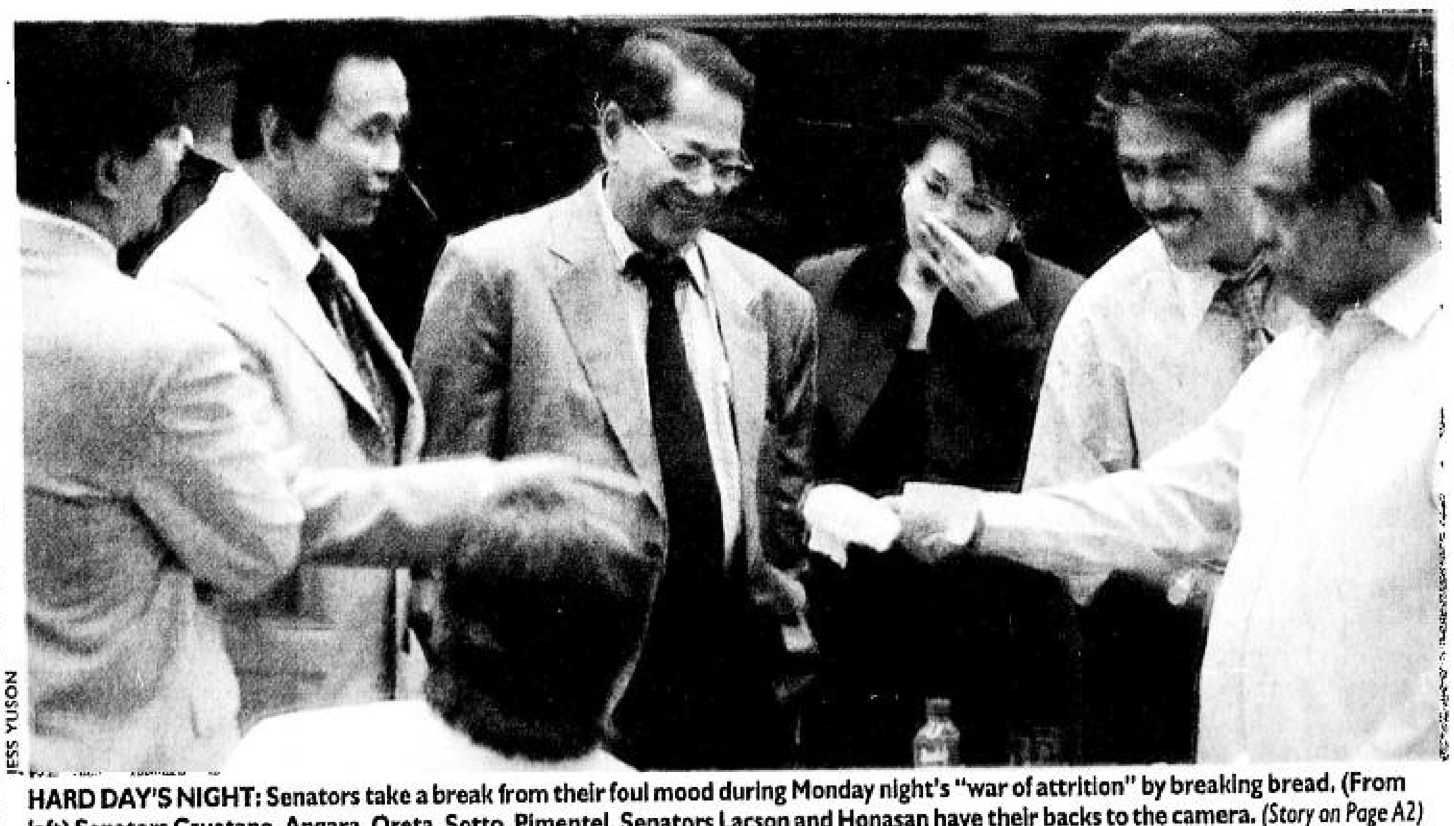
By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission (SEC) ordered College Assurance Plan Philippines Inc., the country's leading preneed firm, on July 18 to stop selling education plans "for failure to address its trust fund deficiencies and other violations of preneed rules."

But six days later, on July 24, the SEC "conditionally lifted" Pre-need Order No. 351 after CAP requested the regulatory body to give it 60 days to come up with the required documentation once its proposed funding scheme was approved.

CAP had incurred a trust fund deficiency of P2.59 billion, which if not addressed

SEC/A20



JESS YUSON

HARD DAY'S NIGHT: Senators take a break from their foul mood during Monday night's "war of attrition" by breaking bread. (From left) Senators Cayetano, Angara, Oreta, Sotto, Pimentel. Senators Lacson and Honasan have their backs to the camera. *(Story on Page A2)*

MABUTI NAMAN!

Senators break impasse

By Rocky Nazareno and Cynthia D. Balana

MORE than eight hours and dozens of hamburgers and *balut* later, Monday's impasse at the Senate was finally resolved in the wee hours of Tuesday, after the administration senators agreed to a compromise resolution acceptable to the opposition.The resolution tacitly recognized the opposition's "rump" sessions on June 3-6 during which four bills were passed.

Senate President Franklin Drilon said these were the Anti-Chainsaw Act and the Free Patent Law, both authored by Sen. Robert Jaworski, and the Philippine-Spanish Day Law sponsored by Sen. Edgardo Angara.

A fourth bill, the proposed Absentee Voting Law, will be brought back to the floor for interpellation to give administration senators a chance to raise questions.

For their part, the opposition senators recognized the "primacy and authority" of the administration senators, including their authority to resolve and dispose of matters other than the four contested bills.

The "win-win formula" was in a one-page resolution adopted by all 23 senators present and signed past midnight.

Asked who broached the formula, Angara said: "We all did."

Earlier, Drilon had declared Monday's session "Ople Day," saying both sides had agreed to listen to the valedictory speech of Sen. Blas Ople, who assumed the foreign affairs portfolio yesterday.

Shortly after Ople's speech, however, Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel attempted to put the validity of the June 3-6 sessions to a vote, prompting Drilon to immediately suspend the session at 5:30 p.m. despite the protests of the opposition.

Chaos ensued, with the administration senators, numbering only 11 with the absence of Sen. Robert Barbers who was in Surigao, refusing to re-enter the session hall.

The opposition senators stood their ground, however, kept their vigil and waited patiently for the majority senators, who were in the Senate lounge, to return.

Majority Leader Loren Legarda later told a press conference it was the longest suspension of a Senate session in history but also the "most fruitful."

Legarda and Pimentel acted as bridges from both sides to end the impasse.

"After the suspension, no one was talking. One group was camped out there, the other was holed up in another place," recalled Legarda.

The opposition bloc, with McDonald's wrappers scattered on their tables, stayed in the session hall while the administration senators were either huddled at the Senate lounge or in their offices.

Legarda said she found this "very uncomfortable."

This was the scenario until around 10:30 p.m. when Legarda, frustrated and tired, said she approached Pimentel and asked him: "What now? Do we have to stay here until midnight?"

Exasperated himself, Pimentel could only scratch his head.

Pimentel went back to his colleagues but came back and told Legarda: "*Ayaw pa, eh, matigas ang mga kasama ko* (They still don't want to talk, they're tough)."

According to Legarda, her colleagues themselves were tough and continued to stay in the Senate lounge.

"They told me just to be patient because (Senate negotiations) were like that," Legarda said.

Returning to Pimentel, Legarda asked him what could be done to finally end the stalemate.

But Pimentel refused to reveal their plan, telling Legarda that "if I tell you our plan, then you might prepare for it."

Legarda was able to get an answer from opposition leader Sen. Edgardo Angara.

"We will make a proposal to settle what happened on June 3-6. And we will vote on it in case you don't agree," Legarda quoted Angara.

"I think that's reasonable. Why don't I call SP (Senate President Drilon)," Legarda told Angara and Pimentel.

Caucuses ensued with the administration bloc meeting in Drilon's sixth floor office while the opposition remained in the session hall.

Palace eyes ₱801-B nat'l budget for 2003

By Dona Pazzibugan

MALACAÑANG will propose an P800.7 billion budget for next year, P20 billion more than the approved budget last year.

Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin said Malacañang would submit the budget proposal to Congress in the second week of August, a week before the deadline set by the Constitution.

Boncodin made the announcement during the Cabinet meeting yesterday.

In a press statement, she said the budget department would try to keep the budget deficit to P130 billion, which is 3.2 percent of gross domestic product (GDP).

She said this is lower than the targeted deficit-to-GDP ratio of 3.3 percent this year.

The budget proposal will be supported by expected revenues of P640.6 billion.

Of this, P465.6 billion will come from the Bureau of Internal Revenue; P106.8 billion from the Bureau of Customs and the balance from other agencies.

Boncodin said the budget is in line with the priorities that President Macapagal-Arroyo laid down during her second State of the Nation Address on July 22, wherein she pushed for a "strong Republic."

The budget will continue to focus on the President's priority programs in agriculture, agrarian reform, tourism, poverty reduction and law enforcement, Boncodin added.

Reprieve for illegals

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysia announced a last-minute reprieve for illegal immigrants who can prove they are willing to leave the country but warned others face jail and caning when an amnesty deadline expires Wednesday.

"There is an extension of one month for those who want to go home but could not get travel documents and tickets in time," Immigration Department director general Mohamed Jamal Kamdi said Tuesday. *AFP*

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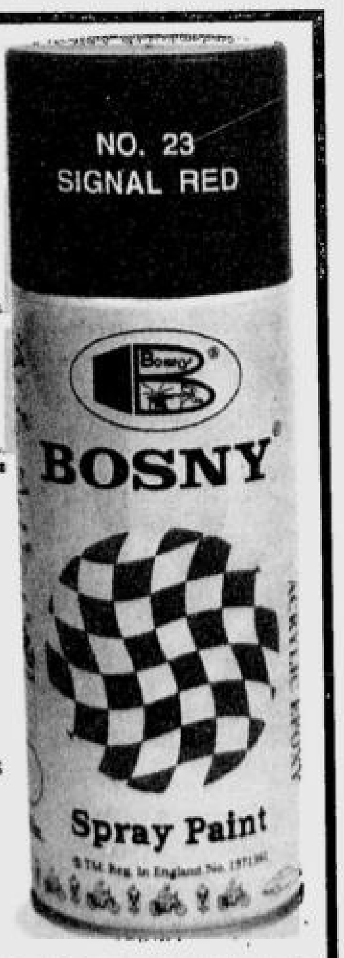

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NIDA BLANCA MURDER

Witness tells why Medel recanted

By TJ Burgonio

FLIP-FLOPPING murder suspect Philip Medel recanted his confession to keep the name of a former chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines from being dragged into the Nida Blanca murder case, according to evidence newly revealed by the police.

A witness, ex-Philippine Constabulary Maj. Pedro Pates Jr., said yesterday that after Medel confessed to murdering Blanca, he (Pates) had gone to the house of retired Gen. Galileo Kintanar, former ISAFP chief, in Quezon City on an unrelated call.

During the visit, the conversation turned to the Blanca killing and another guest, a retired army colonel, suggested "they think of an effective (method of) damage control," apparently to get Medel off the hook.

"Instead of (talking to) PNP Director General (Leandro) Mendoza, the guy told us they would think of a very effective (manner of) damage control. After that, at the DOJ Medel recanted," Pates told reporters, declining to identify the colonel.

Another witness, however, security officer Nilo Gonzaga, who was present at the same visit and who shared an apartment with Medel, identified the retired colonel as Benny Letrondo of the Philippine Army.

"According to Gonzaga, Medel and his group had been trained to act hysterically during interrogation," Pates said when asked what might have been Medel's motive for retracting his confession.

An official of the police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG), who asked not to be named, said what Pates "meant was that Kintanar's group was expert at damage control."

He added: "The words 'damage control' meant they would find ways to keep Kintanar's name out of the case."

Pates, who admitted going to Kintanar's home in Quezon City twice in November last year to seek the latter's help in solving a triple-murder case and a frustrated murder case in Leyte, could not say what was taken up during the meetings.

"I didn't stay long," he said.

He said he was also asked by Medel once before if he (Pates) knew a gun for hire. He also said he overheard Medel on his cellphone talking to a person named Rod. "'Hi, Rod, how are you? Don't worry, yeah, yeah,'" he quoted Medel as saying on the cellphone.

Both Pates and Gonzaga were presented to the media by the CIDG as new witnesses in the Blanca case, although they had submitted their sworn statements to the CIDG two days after Medel's recantation in late November last year.

Rapist cabbie to die by lethal injection Sept. 20

By Michael Lim Ubac

A TAXI driver and market vendor who raped his daughter in 1997 is scheduled to be executed on Sept. 20.

Felix Soriano (not his real name) will be the very first death convict to be executed by lethal injection this year if President Macapagal-Arroyo does not exercise her pardoning power.

Soriano's execution was ordered by Pasig City Regional Trial Court Branch 265 Judge Erwin Villasor yesterday afternoon. (The INQUIRER is withholding the convict's identity to protect that of the victim.)

Villasor set the date for Soriano's execution after the high tribunal affirmed his judgment of conviction on Feb. 28, 2001.

The Pasig RTC convicted Soriano in 1999 for raping his daughter on Feb. 19, 1997.

The last state execution occurred during the time of then President Joseph Estrada when the Bureau of Corrections executed rape convict Eduardo Agbayani in June 2000.

Besides Soriano, at least 17 death convicts have been lined up for execution this year.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said earlier that of the 17 death convicts, 14 are rapists. They are among the more than 1,000 convicts languishing in the Death Row.

Perez explained that under the death penalty law, an execution should be carried out between 12 and 18 months after the finality of the decision.

Before the Pasig court issued its order, Perez was informed that the first one to be executed would be rape convict and former Army soldier Alfredo Nardo.

His execution was set for Oct. 16.

The other death convicts whose judgments had become final are (according to the finality of decisions):

Rolando Pagdayawon (rape), Reynaldo Rebato (rape), Alejandro Guntang (rape), Juan Manalo (rape), Ramshand Thamsey (rape), Ramil Velez Rayos (rape with homicide), Reynaldo Morial (robbery with homicide), Nonelito Abenion (rape), Roberto Palero (rape) Castro Geraban (rape), Alejo Miasco (rape), Sandy Hinto (rape), Ireneo Padilla (rape), Pablo Santos (rape), Roderick Licayan (kidnapping) and Roberto Lara (kidnapping).

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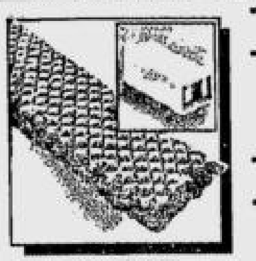
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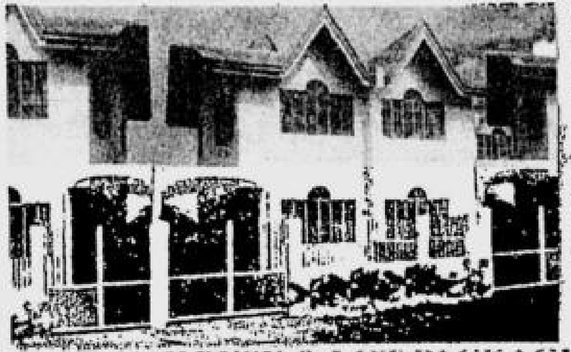
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Desierto won't recommend next Ombudsman

By Michael Lim Ubac, Carlito Pablo and Gerald G. Lacuarta

WITH more than a hundred aspirants vying to succeed him as the country's chief graft buster, Ombudsman Aniano Desierto is not keen to participate in the jockeying to choose his successor.

He is not about to spend his last days in office lobbying for his replacement, said Desierto who retires on Sunday.

"To insulate the Office of the Ombudsman from political influences, I myself will not recommend anyone for the position," he said yesterday.

"They think that this office is powerful, that they can easily use power by being the Ombudsman," said Desierto, commenting on the unusually large number of nominees and wannabes.

Of the hundred or so nominees, the four strongest contenders for the post are Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño, Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo, Presidential Commission on Good Government chair Haydee Yorac and a former senator, Wigberto Tañada.

Malacañang has denied perceptions that Marcelo, a former partner in the influential Carpio, Villaraza & Cruz law firm, or someone with the firm's blessings, was the front-runner.

"The President will rely on the recommendation of the Judicial and Bar Council, which is headed by Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said over the weekend.

The JBC, composed of current and former members of the judiciary, the academe and Congress, recommends replacements for vacancies in the judiciary. The President makes her choice from a shortlist of qualified nominees that the JBC submits to her.

In a teleconference with Palace reporters last Sunday, Bunye said that while the President was the appointing power, she cannot appoint anybody who is not included in the list.

"That's how the selection process operates," he said.

Desierto said only after the JBC has chosen its three top nominees for the post can he be asked to make a recommendation.

"The last day of filing for the nomination will be on Aug. 31. So I should not make any comment on the nominees prior to that so as not to put undue influence on the JBC," he said.

The outgoing Ombudsman stressed that abusing the Ombudsman's power to investigate and prosecute official wrongdoing could create a "power imbalance" in the government.

"The next Ombudsman should be careful in exercising power," he cautioned. "They don't know, they don't realize the repercussions of abusing the powers of the Ombudsman."

The Free Legal Assistance Group has opposed Desierto's nomination to the Supreme Court, saying it would be "a great insult to the rule of law and the Filipino people."

Ma. Socorro Diokno, Flag secretary-general, said Desierto "miserably fails" to meet any of the standards for appointment to the high tribunal, which are competence, integrity, probity and independence.

Flag's opposition is based mainly on Desierto's alleged malfeasance in the Kuratong Baleleng case and his role in the implementation of martial law during the Marcos dictatorship.

Diokno said Desierto could have been part of a plot to clear the police generals implicated in the summary execution of 12 suspected kidnappers in 1996.

Flag represented the families of the 12 who were killed.

Owwa chief says he's not quitting

By Blanche S. Rivera

DESPITE the awkwardness of his situation, the head of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration said yesterday he has not resigned and has no plans of resigning.

Owwa chief Wilhelm Soriano said he was "used to pressure and problems" in government and would comply with Malacañang's instructions for him to "shut up" so as not to lose his job.

Soriano has been in conflict with Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas who has criticized his financial management of the Owwa. Soriano said the Dole secretary was trying to ease him out.

At the House of Representatives, Bulacan Rep. Willie Villarama urged Soriano to come up with his own "report card" on his performance as Owwa chief and answer questions "to prove his fidelity to his fiduciary obligations to OFWs whose money is entrusted in his care."

Villarama said he should account for any investment of Owwa funds with prior approval from the Owwa Board and "the return of such funds and the income derived therefrom to the Owwa general funds."

Soriano claimed that there was a "funded demolition campaign" against him.

EDWIN BACASMAS/MALACAÑANG PHOTO

GLORIA'S GENERALS

President Macapagal Arroyo is all smiles at Malacañang as she administers the oath of office of two police generals she recently promoted. They are Edgardo Aglipay (right), who was promoted to deputy director general of the Philippine National Police, and Reynaldo Velasco, who was named director general and chief of the National Capital Region Police Office. Aglipay, former NCRPO chief, was one of seven police officers recently relieved of their posts for their failure to curb jueteng under their command.

Privatization no good, says backer of Meralco takeover

By Christine O. Avendaño

IT has become a question of "public interest vs private disservice."

Proponents of a House bill that seeks a government takeover of Manila Electric Co. yesterday said privatization had not really done anything for the country.

They assailed President Macapagal-Arroyo for her immediate objection to their newly filed measure proposing government control of all groups engaged in power generation and distribution.

This, as the House committee on legislative franchises approved a franchise that was supposed to help raise funds to pay off the stranded debts of the cash-strapped National Power Corp., and bring down the cost of electricity.

By a unanimous vote, the committee granted the National Transmission Corp., (Transco) the right to construct, install, operate and maintain for the next 50 years a transmission grid throughout the country.

Transco is also allowed to "lend" its franchise to a concessionaire for 25 years, in accordance to the Electric Power Industry Reform Act, according to Bukidnon Rep. Miguel Zubiri, committee chair.

Zubiri said this translated to $2 billion in investments from the concessionaire, which could pay off Napocor's stranded debts.

He said that according to energy officials, three firms had expressed interest to bid for the concession.

The committee set the conditions and qualifications for bidders.

First, the concessionaire should be financially sound. In the case of a joint venture/consortium with one or more foreign investors, at least one of the partners should be technically capable. Lastly, the concessionaire should conform to Filipino ownership requirements.

Earlier, 38 congressmen filed House Bill 4865, which sought to arrest high electricity rates by authorizing the government through the Department of Justice to take over the operations of Meralco and other independent power producers.

President Macapagal immediately objected to this.

Iloilo Rep. Rolex Suplico, principal author of the bill, yesterday said the President's objection was premature. "She hasn't even read my bill," Suplico said.

Ms Macapagal said it would be less efficient for government to take over Meralco.

Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales, a co-author of the bill, retorted that this was no excuse to abdicate the government's responsibility to uphold public interest at all times, against "private disservice."

Suplico challenged Malacañang to come up with "viable" solutions. "I will sit down with officials and discuss it," he said.

But so far, he pointed out, the government's solutions, as shown in the proposed amendments to the Power Reform Law, could be summed up as: debt and its collection.

He referred to the proposal to refinance the stranded debts of Napocor—the cost of which would then be passed on to the consumers.

San Juan Rep. Ronaldo Zamora said bill's authors, including himself did not expect Malacañang to even consider a government takeover. But, he said, the Palace should allow public debate on the issue.

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo said his party-list group also sought to stop Napocor's privatization, as well as the deal with Transco.

At a forum of legislators against the PPA (power purchase adjustment charges), Ocampo said, "Privatization had consolidated the control of foreign monopolies over sectors vital to the national interest, such as power, oil, and water, at the expense of consumers and domestic economy."

Power firms rebuke 3 Napocor unions

TWO US firms supplying power to the National Power Corp. accused three unions of Napocor of damaging their corporate reputation by issuing "false statements or outright fabrications" in their campaign against the outgoing president of the state-owned power firm.

The unions are seeking to permanently ban Jesus Alcordo, who is on leave, from Napocor for alleged conflict of interest.

East Asia Diesel Power Corp. and Duracom Mobile Power Corp.—two of Napocor's power providers—called the attention of the Napocor Employees and Workers Union, the Napocor Employees Consolidated Union, and the Executives Association for their joint statement carried by key national dailies on July 24, calling for Alcordo's ouster.

"The level of disappointment of your unions with Mr. Alcordo is obvious, given your resolutions and actions. However, such actions and the high emotions that accompany them may, at the every least, cause embarrassment to you for making patent mistakes, especially when the documents supporting the truth are in your possession," said Augusto T. Villa-Real, chief operating officer, and J. Ildebrando B. Ambrosio, corporate legal counsel, of the two firms said in a letter to the Napocor unions.

The unions claimed Alcordo retained ownership interests in the two firms even after he had assumed the Napocor presidency, thereby resulting in conflict of interest.

Villa-Real and Ambrosio said that while Alcordo was a founder of the companies, he had divested himself of ownership in East Asia, the parent of the two firms, in the first quarter of 2001 in compliance with the requirement of government service.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, July 31, 2002
17th Week in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: Jer 15:10, 16-21
Gospel: Mt 13:44-46

Jesus said to the crowds, "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field. The one who finds it buries it again; and so happy is he, that he goes and sells everything he has, in order to buy that field.

Again the kingdom of heaven is like a trader who is looking for fine pearls. Once he has found a pearl of exceptional quality, he goes away, sells everything he has and buys it."

Commentary

The parables of the treasure and the pearl invite us not to let opportunities pass by, when the kingdom of God comes to us. Some had been waiting for years for that word, or person or sign of hope that would give new meaning to their lives. One day they found it. Sometimes it was found through simple things: a forgiving word, a friendly smile, a first commitment offered to them and accepted. Then they understood that this was the way to gain all they were waiting for, and they entered the Kingdom happily. But the parable says: he hides it again. Ordinarily it is God who hides the treasure again after having shown it to us, for it will be really ours when we have worked for it and persevered. We must look for it.

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CRIMINAL LAW (AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES)—Evident premeditation—To authorize the finding of evident premeditation, the prosecution must establish (a) the time when accused-appellants determined to commit the crime; (b) the act showing that they clung to their determination; and (c) a sufficient interval of time between the determination and the execution of the crime to allow them to reflect upon the consequences of their act. Other than a chance encounter between the witness and the principal antagonists in this case, there is a dearth of information to show that accused-appellants had deliberately planned to commit the crime and had persistently and consciously followed it notwithstanding that they had ample and sufficient time to allow their conscience to overcome the determination of their will, if they had desired it, after meditation and reflection. [Citations omitted.] (Justice Bellosillo, Second Division, People v. Catian, G. R. No. 139693, January 24, 2002]

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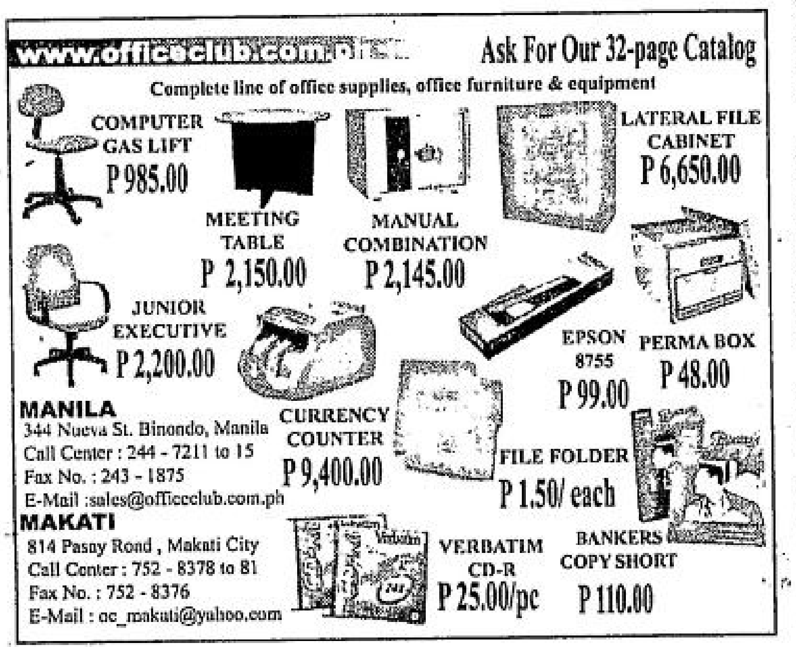

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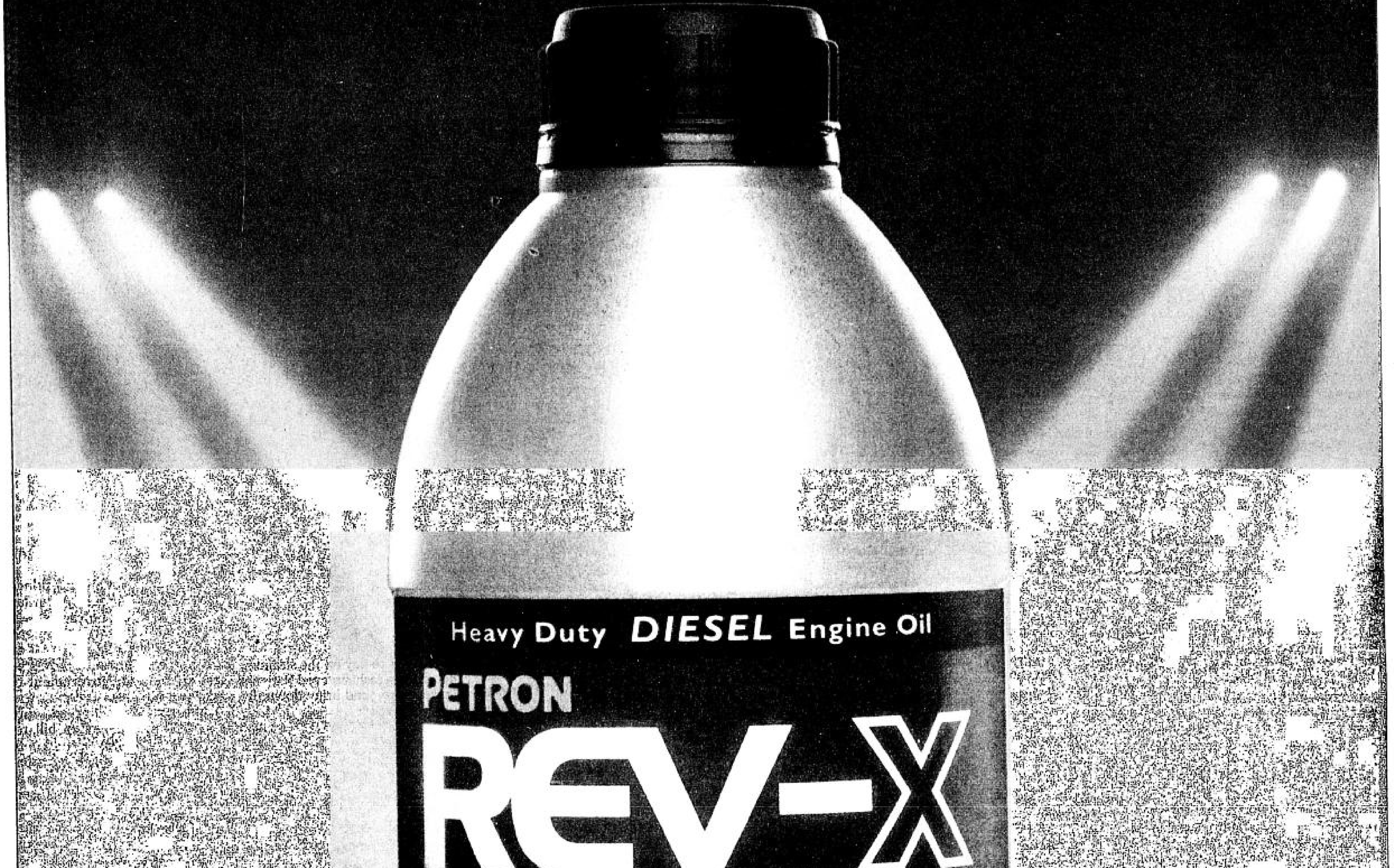
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It's not goodbye, Joe

From page A1

PREPARING for the worse, cops in full anti-riot gear await the arrival of People's Caravan in Zamboanga City. DONDEE DONDOYAO

to build several civil-works projects in Basilan—have left the island.

Cincpac here

The six-month-long Balikatan 02-1 ends formally today, with the highest-ranking American military officer in the Pacific and Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo in attendance.

Romulo, representing the President, and US Admiral Thomas Fargo, commander in chief of the US Pacific command (Cincpac), will be joined by Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, Armed Forces chief of staff Roy Cimatu, Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Ernesto Carolina, Brig. Gen. Donald Wurster and Brig. Gen. Emmanuel Teodosio at the closing rites. The ceremony will be held at 11 a.m. at the Mansion conference room of the Southern Command headquarters in Zamboanga City.

Fargo will arrive in Manila early this morning, fly to Basilan to inspect the airport the Seabees built, proceed to Zamboanga for the ceremonies, then return to Manila and leave the country later today.

Fargo, who is visiting the country for the second time since his appointment last May, is not expected to pay a call on the President.

His visit heightens anticipation that the approval of the controversial Mutual Logistics Support Agreement (MLSA), which supposedly grants US forces basing rights, is imminent. Fargo and Cimatu are the co-chairs of the Mutual Defense Board. US Secretary of State Colin Powell will meet President Macapagal-Arroyo on Saturday.

Officials from both sides hailed Balikatan 02-1.

"Balikatan is an outstanding success. It has not only improved the operational capabilities of our forces but more importantly, imbued them with the confidence and renewed resilience in combating terrorism," Teodosio, the training co-director, said.

Big loss

In Basilan, the epicenter of the Abu Sayyaf crisis, residents and government officials said the departure of the US forces was "a big loss."

Residents were one in saying they wanted the Americans to stay longer.

Sumisip town Mayor Hajiman Saliman Hataman said the Americans did a lot for her town and the island in general. She said basic infrastructure, which was a mere dream for residents until recently, were completed through the efforts of US forces.

Hataman also said that the presence of the Americans made them feel secure, even though the Abu Sayyaf bandits were just lurking in the Sampinit Complex in her town.

"Psychologically, the people here feel secure, (and) economic activities became active and livelier when the US troops were deployed here," Hataman told the INQUIRER.

Maluso mayor Sakib Salajin agreed. He said that after the road toward Mount Mahadji was paved and bridges were rehabilitated, transporting the town's produce—mainly fruits—became easier and faster.

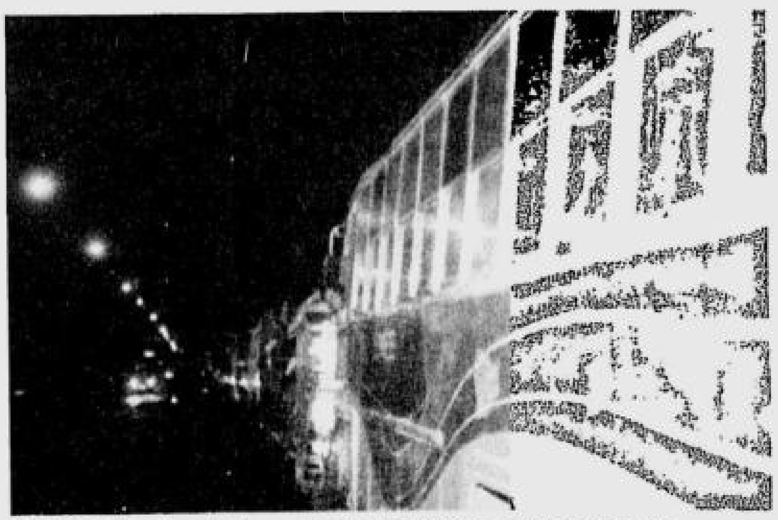
Like Hataman, Salajin said that residents shared a renewed sense of security.

"*Sa ngayon wala nang armadong Abu Sayyaf, kung meron man patago-tago na* (Now there are no armed bandits; if ever, they are in hiding)," Salajin said.

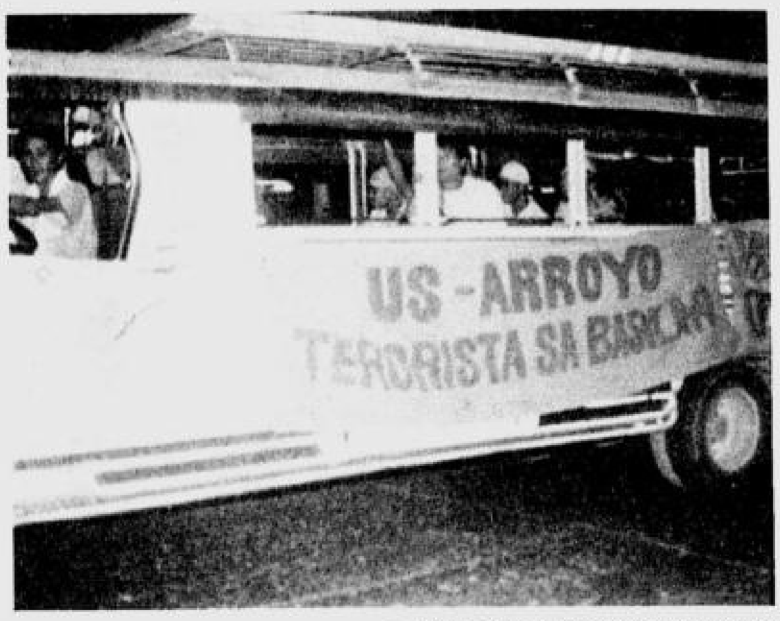
In Zamboanga City, Rudy Iglesias, a government economic executive, said American military presence invigorated the business climate.

Carolina said the departure of US forces was expected.

"Their departure does not affect our emotions. It's no big deal. It only meant that we have attained our objectives," Carolina said. ***With reports from Martin Marfil, Dona Pazzibugan; AFP***



POLICE check out the convoy of 1,200 participants in the People's Caravan joined by 40 foreign delegates of the International Solidarity Movement which has been conducting a probe into alleged violations of human rights by Filipino and American troops. DONDEE DONDOYAO/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU



DONDEE DONDOYAO/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

PEOPLE'S Peace Caravan, an anti-American rally led by Bayan, is stopped at an intersection in Zamboanga City

GIs say heat, not Abus, was biggest 'threat'

MALUSO, Basilan—They came, they saw—they felt the heat.

US soldiers taking part in the Balikatan 02-1 military exercises which end today said the Abu Sayyaf security threat paled in comparison to the punishment they got from the tropical sun.

"Overall it has been a very good experience working with the local Marines," said a 28-year-old Green Beret from Washington who gave his name only as Sergeant Joe.

"But the Number One thing for me is the weather, the heat," a smiling Joe said while sheltering under lush bamboo groves to escape the searing sun. Tiny crystals of sweat gathered on his ruddy forehead.

Joe is among several US Special Forces commandos deployed since February in this town, a hotbed of Abu Sayyaf bandits, to guard American naval engineers building access roads and bridges.

His unit pulls out today after a six-month tour of duty, during which US soldiers trained and assisted Armed Forces troops against the al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf gunmen.

Asked if he would return if asked, Joe nodded. "But I would have to ask for how long," he joked.

Another American soldier who refused to give his name said the climate could cause potentially deadly heat strokes or dehydration for anyone not acclimatized to tropical conditions.

"We learned a lot from the Marines here. It's been good and fine. Not bad at all since we enjoyed working. But the sun can sometimes take its toll," he said, sipping water from a contraption on his back.

"Personally, I have learned some lessons, like how to avoid being in that condition."

There is no electricity and people can only dream of fans and airconditioners as early afternoon temperatures rise to the mid-30s Celsius and the humidity to well over 80 percent.

The Philippine Marine camp uses portable power generators, but only at night. The Americans have to strip their shirts to be comfortable, Filipino officials said.

To while away the time, US troops made do with board games and with playing with curious Filipino children who stray near the camp.

Sergeant Joe said he liked to tell himself the US presence had made a difference for the people of Basilan, especially in Maluso, which was once deserted when the rebels beheaded a number of residents. ***AFP***

AFP produced fall guy, says US rights lawyer

From page A1

The foreign delegates had also been angered by President Macapagal-Arroyo who called them communists and human rights violators. They said the President should apologize for calling them names.

Pugh belied Ms Macapagal's claims that the uproar over Isnijal's shooting was all communist propaganda.

"President (Macapagal) has attacked the ISM and its lead organizers Representatives Satur Ocampo and Liza Maza, but what she doesn't see and won't admit is that the ISM's findings were not discovered by these two individuals but the entire ISM delegation ...we have seen with our own eyes the victims of the abuses by the Armed Forces of the Philippines. We have heard testimonies coming from ordinary, impoverished people whose only fault is to be Muslim and to be in the wrong place at the wrong time," Pugh said.

Unbecoming

"The Isnijal case has shaken the government, it has shaken the American forces and they are doing everything, moving everything to discredit us, the President has called us communists and has called us human rights violators, well, we challenge her to provide proof," Ocampo told reporters.

Ms Macapagal said communists like Ocampo and Maza, were the ones guilty of human rights abuses and not the American troops who were to help fight the government against the Abu Sayyaf.

"The President's insults are very unbecoming of the highest official of the land," Ocampo said. "If there's anyone who's a human rights violator, it is her."

Ocampo, a former spokesperson of the communist National Democratic Front, said Ms Macapagal should take command responsibility for the "countless" atrocities the Philippine Army and the Philippine National Police are committing in the name of the anti-terrorism campaign.

Ocampo said he was not afraid of facing complaints if any would be filed against him at the House committee on ethics.

"I am not threatened by this, even if it's (Ms Macapagal) herself who files the complaint. If doing my duty as a public servant and as a human rights advocate merits charges from the very government which is supposed to uphold and protect human rights, then so be it," Ocampo said.

Spin

Pugh also scoffed at President Macapagal's allegation that the ISM was lying when it said widespread human rights violations were committed in Basilan.

"We may be foreigners in this country but we share with Filipinos the very humane struggle for justice and the respect of human rights. We will not be dismissed as liars. We will not let our findings be maligned and twisted by your spin-doctors and military advisers," Pugh said.

The Promotion of Church People's Response denounced the alleged intimidation of ISM members. "It is really outrageous that President Macapagal's Am-Girl instincts" has led her to resort to the "communist bogey" again when the mission participants exposed the case of American soldiers' involvement on local police operations, the militant church group said. It demanded an investigation of the shooting incident saying no immunity should be accorded the allegedly guilty US soldier.

Challenge rebuffed

Ocampo challenged the military to present Sergeant Millarosa and S/Sgt. Reggie Lane before Judaira Isnijal, wife of the suspected bandit, to determine whether she was telling the truth.

But Southern Command chief, Lt. Gen. Ernesto Carolina, said that ISM's demand and challenge was immaterial and a mere waste of precious time.

He said the ISM had no right to challenge the military to presenting its soldiers into an "unnecessary trial."

Pugh said the counter-evidence and counter-testimonies the Southcom was presenting were laughable. He added that Millarosa might have been paid to claim responsibility for shooting Isnijal.

"Why is it that he has only spoken up now. He's simply not credible. The Southcom is resorting to ridiculous and unscrupulous tactics in its desperation to cover up for the US troops involved, including the one named Reggie Lane," Pugh said.

Blatant violation

Matthew Parham, a New York law student, decried the fact that US troops had been directly involved in a military operation, which he said was a police matter, in blatant violation of the terms of reference (TOR) guiding the presence of US troops.

"Did US military personnel take him to the hospital or not? The officials can't get their story straight. This confusion stems from the fact that they have been caught red-handed violating the TOR and are tripping all over themselves to produce an effective cover-up," he said.

Los Angeles journalist Scott Schaeffer said that the presence of US troops anywhere in the world was a danger to civilian populations.

Request ignored

The highest ranking US military commander ignored the requests of the ISM's US delegation for a meeting to discuss its findings, but his subordinates gave the delegates the run around.

"He gave us a number, but when we called it, we found it was disconnected. The second instance, someone hanged up on us when we introduced ourselves," said Rev. Dan Dale of the United Church of Christ of the United States.

"The refusal to meet us gives even more credibility to our findings that the US is involved in this incident," he said.

Independent probe

Yesterday, the Commission on Human Rights sent a fact-finding team to Basilan to conduct an independent investigation of the alleged shooting of Isnijal.

Newly appointed CHR Chair Purificacion Valera Quisumbing said her office had gotten in touch with the regional CHR officer in Basilan, lawyer Ciriaco Habido Jr., to lead the investigation.

"It will be an impartial probe of the CHR. We are not taking sides," Quisumbing said in her first news conference.

Dominador Calamba II, one of the CHR commissioners, said even if the shooting of civilian Buyong buyong Isnijal was a violation of the Revised Penal Code, the CHR would still have to identify the liability of whoever shot him.

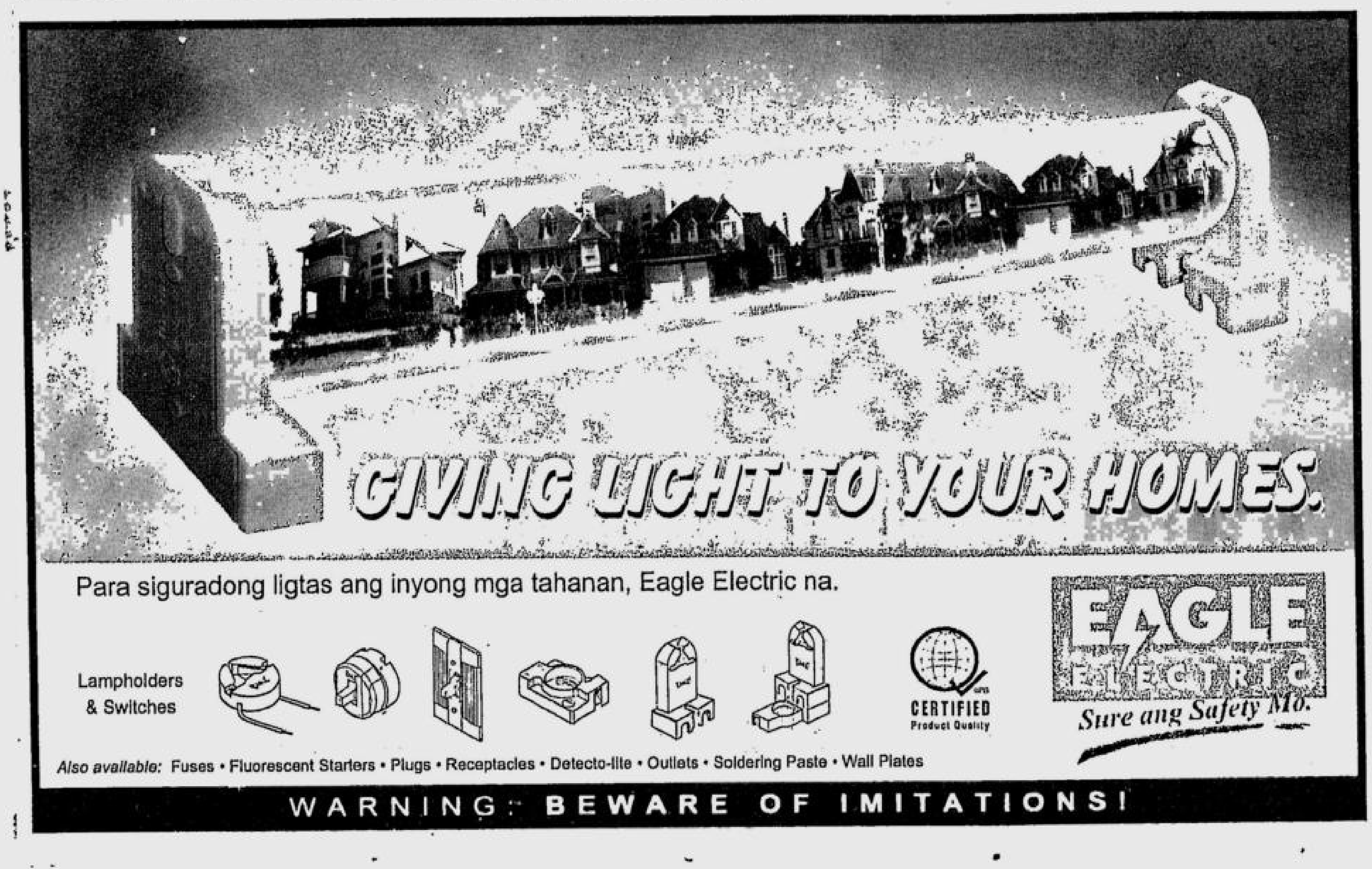
"Was it intentional or not? Or does the shooting constitute a human rights violation?" Calamba said.

"We still can't say."

Calamba said Habido would be reporting back this morning for the initial findings.

ISM's 40 foreign delegates and their 25 local counterparts yesterday joined the 1,200 participants of the Lakbay Kalinaw People's Caravan led by the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) and the US Troops, Out Now! Coalition in a rally against the Balikatan exercises and the continued armed US intervention in the Philippines. ***(Story on Page A1.)***

The protest actions capped the activities and itinerary of the ISM which began July 24. The ISM's foreign participants come from Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Japan, South Korea, the Netherlands, Taiwan, and the United States. ***With a report from Armand Nocum***



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Comelec wasted P47M on useless IDs in '99

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE COMMISSION on Elections spent at least P47 million for the production of around one million identification cards that were supposed to be used for the 1999 registration in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao but were not utilized due to inefficiencies.

Comelec records showed that the Comelec had contracted a deal with Photokina Marketing Corp. for the purchase of Polaroid cameras and films to be used for the voter's ID in the ARMM.

The negotiated contract, completed in April 1999, provided for the purchase of 500 Polaroid cameras worth P10,899 each, totaling P5,449,000, and 800,000 film sheets worth P41 each totaling P32,800,000.

But despite the huge disbursement, sources said the voters IDs were not used because only 30 percent of the pictures taken came out right.

The source further said that the Comelec had to reprint a second batch of IDs because the first batch of the 1.2 million IDs that were released did not have the signature of the signing authority from the Comelec.

In a resolution signed by former Comelec chair Harriet Demetriou and commissioners Julio Desamito, Manolo Gorospe, Teresita Dy-Liaco Flores, Japal Guiani, Abdul Gani Marohombsar Al Hadji and Luzviminda Tancangco, the Comelec cited RA 8746 to justify the need for a photograph in the voter's application.

The resolution, dated April 20, 1999, also stressed the issuance of a voter's ID "as may be determined by the Commission," as cited also in RA 8746.

Photokina, the sole distributor of Polaroid cameras in the country, also agreed to lend the Comelec 700 cameras for free provided that these be returned two weeks after the registration, which the Comelec failed to do.

The Comelec had to pay an additional P500,000 for the failure to return some of the cameras, the source said. The purchased Polaroid cameras, which had remained unused since the ARMM registration, are still in the Comelec stockroom.

Photokina spokesperson George Balagtas said it was no longer the firm's fault that the Comelec had failed in the project, adding that the Photokina was merely the supplier of films and cameras.

"We delivered the films which we purchased from all over the country just to accommodate the urgent request of Harriet Demetriou. We don't know anymore what they did with that," Balagtas said in a phone interview yesterday.

"As far as we know, the Comelec bought films from us. We don't know if they failed or what," he added.

Tancangco said it was an en banc decision to purchase the Polaroid cameras, which the resolution said was more advantageous than the regular cameras because it would cost the Comelec less and had lower risks of exposure and handling problems.

The source, however, said that Polaroid photographs last only for a few months before they fade while the voters ID is supposed to endure for 12 years.

Impeachment rap vs Tancangco moved to Aug. 7

By Christine Avendaño

THE FILING of the impeachment complaint against Commission on Elections commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco before the House has been moved again for next week.

Bacolod City Rep. Monico Puentevella said yesterday that 16 groups under the People vs Tancangco movement and 23 individual leaders will file the complaint against Tancangco on Aug. 7 instead of today.

Puentevella said he has also heeded a "strong clamor" from his colleagues that the House be the one to hear the complaint first against Tancangco instead of directly transmitting it to the Senate.

"A lot of congressmen feel the issue (against Tancangco) be ventilated and blown sky high and this would be worse for Tancangco because all the details would be exposed," he said.

That's why Puentevella said he has stopped gathering signatures of his colleagues endorsing the complaint.

So far 64 congressmen have signed his resolution of endorsement—13 signatures shy of transmitting the complaint to the Senate so that it could convene as an impeachment court.

Gloria calls for faster integration of Asean

ASEAN must resist the urge to stall closer regional integration, President Macapagal-Arroyo said.

"For our diverse countries to survive and prosper, we need closer integration. We need to think regionally and deepen regional ties. Our national and economic interests lie in the destiny of the region and our linkage with the rest of the world," she wrote in the Asian Wall Street Journal's Tuesday edition.

She said the Asean Free Trade Area (Afta) which has slashed import tariffs on almost all goods traded among the Philippines and five of the nine other members "has some way to go before it will become an effective means of strengthening the region's competitive economic position."

The accord brought down tariff levels on intra-Asean trade from this year to between zero and five percent.

"Underlying Afta is the realization that small, protected markets will no longer work in the face of the competitive challenge confronting us," she said. ***AFP***

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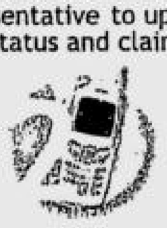

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Blas' blah-blah

EDITORIAL

NEWLY appointed Foreign Secretary Blas F. Ople's valedictory at the Senate Monday was less of a fond farewell to his colleagues than a bitter parting shot at his critics, including the INQUIRER. Ople took umbrage at the INQUIRER's editorial last Sunday calling him the "wrong man" for the top job at the Department of Foreign Affairs and criticizing his appointment as "a repudiation of Edsa II." The editorial, he wailed, "constitutes a vicious and scurrilous attack not only against my person but also against the President herself...[T]his editorial appears to be synchronized with several articles of the same tenor published in the INQUIRER under the byline of Mr. Amando Doronila."

Doronila can defend himself, but it must be said that it sounds puerile and pathetic when a 75-year-old politician digs up a "favor" given more than half a century ago to try to silence a critic. And Ople went on to stick out his tongue figuratively by saying Doronila must have been motivated by envy ("*inggit*") over his many successes in the political arena. And the fellow is supposed to be the country's top diplomat and statesman?

But then there are many things Ople seems to have forgotten. For one who takes pride in being "an old journalistic hand," for instance, Ople apparently cannot conceive of a newspaper whose editorial content and point of view are not dictated by a single individual—certainly not by someone who is not even a regular member of the staff, like an editorial consultant, which is what Doronila is in the INQUIRER. Thus, he feels free to air publicly his suspicion that a "synchronized" campaign is being waged to malign him in the INQUIRER. Even a freshman journalism student knows that if Ople is the subject of many commentaries, it is because he is very much in the news these days.

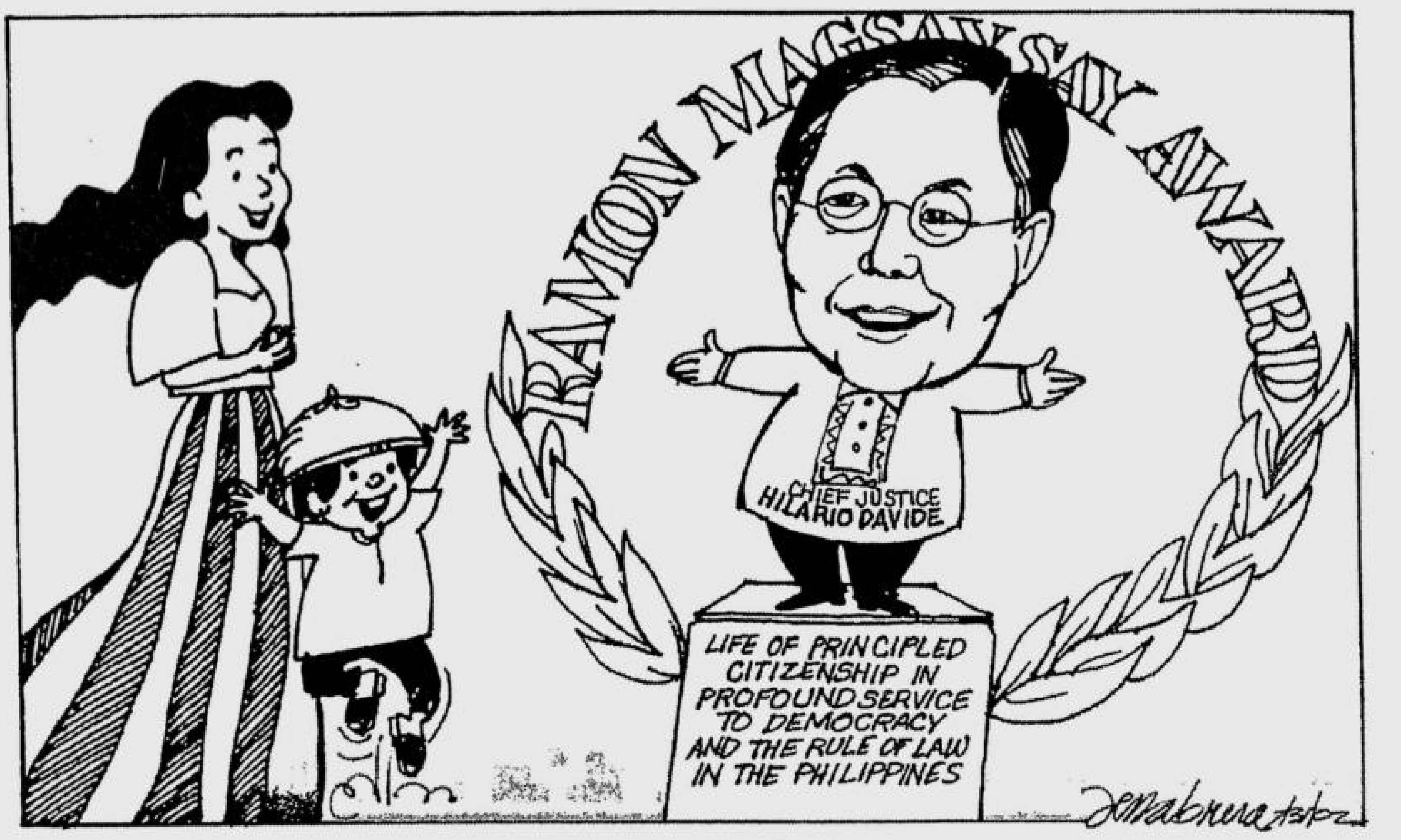
If Ople said the editorial was "vicious and scurrilous," it could only have been because he liked to string the two words together. Maybe what we said bordered on the vicious, but scurrilous it certainly wasn't. Or has Ople also forgotten their meanings?

Ople said the INQUIRER "never cited a single concrete case where I was involved in any abuse of power." But it was not necessary to bring up his loans with some government financial institutions. It was enough to point out that he did not use the power that was his as a senator to help ferret out the truth about the widespread graft and corruption, the gross incompetence and the immorality of the administration of his patron, then President Joseph Estrada. It was enough to point out that when the time came for him to make a choice between his loyalty to Estrada and the well-being of the entire nation, he chose the first and voted to suppress the evidence that would have damned his patron. It was enough to point out that after having been caught on the wrong side of history, he should not be gifted with one of the most prestigious positions in government. It was enough to say that after helping provoke public outrage by being among the Craven Eleven, he should not represent before the international community the government that people power installed.

Ople speaks of his new job as if it were his by predestination or almost as a matter of right. At the Senate, he said the job "grows out of my work in the Senate." Earlier he and his supporters asserted that it was the job that was seeking him, not the other way around.

Of course, everyone is entitled to his own delusions, Ople included. But for all his conceit and self-praise and despite President Macapagal-Arroyo's mighty efforts to disguise her intentions, nobody is deceived. Everybody knows Ople got his Cabinet post for only one reason: the administration had to have control of the Senate, and getting Ople out of there was one way to do it. If Ople doesn't want to start his new stint in the Cabinet with a lie, this is the first thing he should acknowledge.

Ople now pleads with his "well-meaning critics" to "hold your judgment and give me a chance to prove your fears and doubts misplaced." But such doubts and fears are well placed. He has had his chance—two chances, in fact. At some of the most critical junctures in the nation's history, Ople's commitment to the common good was tested: first during Marcos' martial law and then during Estrada's impeachment trial. Both times he failed. When the cock crows for the third time, he can deny us again.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Return to original system of charging power rates

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE MACAPAGAL administration has unveiled 25-percent discounts for big industrial users of electricity, the first of the President's 10-point plan to reduce power rates. The hope is that the discounts will encourage the industries to expand their activities and hire more workers. But this is discriminatory; it favors only the big ones. What about the smaller ones who need more help than the big ones? How can they grow any bigger if they have to pay more for their electricity than what their already big competitors are paying?

Why don't we just go back to the old system of charging electricity? In the old days, the more electricity you consume, the lower the rate per kilowatt hour. That was done to encourage people to use more electricity. That system was reversed when we had a power shortage to discourage electric consumption. The more you consume, the higher the rate, so consumers are forced to economize. That is the system we have now.

And that is the reason industries are reluctant to expand; their electrical consumption will also expand. And that also reverses the economies of scale, which says the more you produce, the cheaper each unit becomes. But because of our topsy-turvy system of charging electric rates, the more you produce now, the more expensive each unit becomes.

And that is also the reason why our streets are dark, although we have electricity coming out of our ears. Local government units, which pay for the electric bills of street lights (except those in private subdivisions) don't want to put up more lights because their electric bills will go up. In fact, they discourage politicians and Pagcor from putting up more lights in dark streets with their own funds because once the electric poles and lights are in place, it would be they, the LGUs, which will have to pay the bills for power consumption. And when lights conk out, the LGUs are reluctant to have them repaired so that they can economize on electric bills.

Meralco, by the way, also cheats when it comes to busted street lights. Private subdivisions, for example, pay Meralco a fixed rate for each street light whether or not it is working. Even if a light is busted for many months, the subdivision has to pay for that as if it is working. Meralco, therefore, takes an eternity repairing street lights even if it is a simple matter of changing the bulb. It is paid whether there is light or not, anyway. And they save on electricity if it is not and still get paid.

As I said, the old original system was reversed to the present system to discourage electric consumption when we had a power shortage. But now we have too much electricity and rates are high because we cannot use all of it but are charged to us anyway. If we go back to the original system, we will be encouraged to use more electricity and at the same time pay less for each kilowatt hour used. Our streets will be lighted up. That should not only discourage crime but also make our country more cheerful. (Right now, even some downtown areas look gloomy and scary.) Who knows, it may even reduce the birth rate. And the LRT and MRT may choose to string colored lights above its tracks to make them look more cheerful and thus attract more passengers. And industries and commercial establishments will be encouraged to expand, produce more, hire more workers, make their factories, offices and stores brighter in order to use up more electricity.

President Macapagal-Arroyo may have to sign more contracts with independent power producers as the present capacity is used up—and whatever other advantages that may entail. So, everybody will be happy: the President, the government, IPPs, businessmen and consumers.

* * *

But right now, we still have an excess of electricity and that is driving up power rates. Some power plants clearly have to be mothballed temporarily. Here, Napocor and the IPPs, especially Meralco, can't agree which plant should be sidelined first. Napocor wants private IPPs to be sidelined, and the IPPs want the Napocor plants to be taken out first.

I think the solution is very simple: mothball the dirty power plants first—coal-fired, the dirtiest; diesel next, also the most expensive—whoever owns them. At present, Napocor has two coal-fired power plants, and the IPPs combined have four.

Coal-burning contributes to global warming, which will melt the ice caps, raise sea levels and drown many islets and coastal areas including those in the Philippines. But before that happens, coal plants will already have poisoned the seas and land around them, as the Napocor-owned Calaca (Batangas) and Sual (Pangasinan) power plants are now doing.

We shouldn't have coal-fired power plants here in the first place, but during the oil crisis, it was thought that we had plenty of coal. Semirara was thought to be one whole island of coal. It turned out, however, that it was poor quality coal and have to be mixed with imported coal. This coal was already expensive but it was still overpriced by Napocor importers. That is why Napocor does not want coal plants closed down although they are not needed at present—they can no longer import overpriced coal.

But sidelining them first is the sensible thing. That would not only save the environment but stop Greenpeace and other environmental groups from picketing coal plants. When the capacity of the other power plants are used up and we need more electricity, they can always be reactivated.

The cleanest plants are the hydroelectric plants (of which Napocor has several natural gas; IPPs have at least two) and geothermal (Napocor also has several). They should be the ones left behind.

Seeing red

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

"COMMUNISTS" is how President Macapagal-Arroyo refers to the group that is asking for a congressional inquiry into the shooting of an Abu Sayyaf suspect by an American soldier. Let the "communists" prove it, she says. "Communists" was also how she referred to a group that gathered at Edsa several weeks ago to denounce her proclivity to "sleep with the enemy." Civil society was with her, she said, it was only the communists who were not.

"Communists" is also how newly appointed foreign secretary, Blas Ople, calls the group that has called him "Amboy." A rich twist of fate, given that that was how he was classified by the US Embassy for quite some time. Sure, he likes Americans, Ople says. They won the war. Don't the communists know the Berlin Wall has fallen and communism has collapsed?

If they are referring to Satur Ocampo's group, that is probably true, which in any case is something they are not loath to proclaim. But if not for those communists, GMA would still be floating like a butterfly, though not stinging like a bee, not knowing what to do with herself in Erap's administration. If not for those communists, GMA would not be in a position to call them communists. It was those communists who fought Erap because his rule sucked, and paved the way for the other groups to do so. And who did so only when it was safe to do so. They can always say, "*komunista, si, oportunista, no.*"

But there is something tremendously bothersome about the use of the term, "communists," at a time when the United States is earnestly trying to turn Asean into a new Seato, or a security bloc in lieu of an economic one, and when a logistical agreement is about to be signed by the President. There is no doubt she will of course, which is possible only because the thing is called an "agreement," which falls within the ambit of an executive decision, and not a "treaty," which it really is, which requires a Senate vote. The division of the world into "communists" and "people who like Americans" looks calculated to undercut any opposition to it.

Unfortunately for the President and foreign secretary, but very fortunately for the nation, there is one Teofisto Guingona to remind us such a division is an artificial one. You can be opposed to the return of American military presence in this country, and indeed the re-conscription of Southeast Asia into a new Cold War, or the American jihad, and not be a communist. You can say no to America and not be hostile to Americans, or even dislike them. Like Guingona, you can be a nationalist, one who did not want the US bases to remain in 1991, who did not want to embrace the destructive kind of globalization embodied by GATT in 1995, who did not want American troops to slip back into the country through the Trojan Horse called the Visiting Forces Agreement in 1998. Like Guingona, you can be a Filipino first, one who will treat his guest right but will not use his kid's tuition money to give the guest a blast in the name of hospitality.

I myself do not particularly care who shot whom in Basilan. The whole concept of American forces being free to come and go in this country is anomalous. It had no business being there. After nearly a year since 9/11, we should be able to look more soberly at the kind of undertaking we are being asked to plunge into. Bereft of the emotional upheaval 9/11 spawned—in this country just as much as in the United States—we should be able to assess the kind of world we are being asked to help build, or wreck.

Certainly, we should be able to ask if the conjuring trick of "anti-terrorism" still works. What has the "war against terror" really consisted of this past year?

Among other things, as American media have finally learned, after learning to reassert their independence and not merely repose their faith in military briefings, a scale of civilian casualties in Afghanistan that has not hitherto been admitted by the Pentagon. Not the least of them a wedding entourage that got blasted by "friendly fire" from the skies. America's reliance on air strikes rather than on the more dangerous ground missions has led to "alarming civilian casualties," as one report puts it. None of the Afghan casualties of course will have her life or heroism paraded before the world. They will only be the nameless, faceless dead.

Among other things, American stockpiling of nuclear arms, in contravention of disarmament protocols, in another demonstration of "exceptionalism" by the only superpower left on earth: what applies to the world does not apply to America. Among other things, a belligerent American effort to oust Yasser Arafat from power, an effort spurned by the EU and the United Nations, which have stoutly reaffirmed their belief in Arafat as the legitimate leader of the Palestinian people. Among other things, saber-rattling at the so-called "rogue countries," which may not remain saber-rattling for very long, not if Bush will have his way. It was, quite incidentally, an American scholar, an expert on American military affairs, who told me the inclusion of North Korea in Bush's "axis of evil" speech was an afterthought. The speechmakers suddenly realized all the "rogue countries" they had lined up were Muslim.

And closer to home, the transformation of the Abu Sayyaf from a kidnapping gang specializing in foreigners (a thing that is now happening in Metro Manila, foreigners now being fair game for criminals) into "terrorists," and thence the country itself into a flashpoint in the "war against terrorism." And GMA wonders why investors and tourists are not coming to the country! Why should you want to invest in or visit a country that proudly advertises itself as an al-Qaida laboratory?

We want to get to the head of the line for this? You don't have to be a communist to see red.

[illegible]

Ople's bad valediction

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

SEN. Blas Ople crowned his 10 years in the Senate with a valedictory last Monday that tried to settle scores with his critics in what could have been an occasion to demonstrate the statesmanship Philippine foreign affairs badly needs.

Ople devoted more than a third of his speech pouring scorn on me for criticizing his recruitment into the Macapagal Cabinet in what now appears as a sordid political deal in which he deserted his colleagues in the opposition in exchange for the post of foreign secretary.

His speech not only singled me out among those in the press who criticized the circumstances surrounding his Cabinet appointment. It was also bathed in vitriol unprecedented in the annals of the Senate.

The rest of his text was devoted to fulsome, self-serving praise of his qualifications for foreign secretary. His pitch was that his service in the Senate, particularly his chairmanship of the Senate foreign relations committee, prepared him for his new job. The implication is that he was irrevocably destined for the job—an echo of the notion of one being born with the right to rule.

If he is so confident of the inevitability of his destiny in the foreign office, it's hard to see why his friends have to buy space in the newspapers to extol his credentials. His record is supposed to be impressive enough to stand for itself without the aid of advertising testimonials.

A careful reading of his speech shows Ople used the speech to disseminate false and malicious information under the cloak of parliamentary immunity.

The speech ignored completely the central issue from which sprang the controversy of his appointment to the foreign office. The issue centers on the circumstances behind his recruitment to the Cabinet and raises the question of whether he has the intellectual and physical vigor to conduct a dynamic foreign policy that can respond to the changing security and economic challenges facing the republic.

Instead, Ople diverted attention to two irrelevant elements.

The first is the analogy in which Ople likened himself to Jean Valjean being hounded by Inspector Javert, who in Victor Hugo's "Les Misérables," pursued him relentlessly for stealing a loaf of bread. The second indulges in reminiscences over his claim of having given me my first job. The second is full of inaccuracies.

To begin with, what crime did Ople commit that drove a Javert to hunt him down? The analogy falls flat on its face when we consider that Ople is not a fugitive but in a position of power and authority and I am not. He has access to parliamentary immunity, and I don't. The larger message of Victor Hugo is that Javert was the incarnation of an overpowering and ubiquitous presence of the French State in the lives of the French people in the context of the absolutist doctrine of the Divine Rights of Kings. "Les Misérables" is not about Javert committing suicide in remorse over his pursuit of Jean Valjean.

Ople's memory has dimmed. He claims he gave me my first writing job at the Boy Scouts of the Philippines. I got the job, first as stenographer, through competitive examinations, regardless of who competed for it. Ople was then editorial assistant in the PR section of the Boy Scouts. He was not in a position to hire or fire. The head of the section was writer and journalist Amante Bigornia.

Yes, we started at the bottom at the Boy Scouts. But we took different paths. His trajectory led him to politics. Mine kept me in journalism. I didn't aspire to be a senator or a Cabinet minister, so he can't say he bypassed me. I have never considered him to be a competitor. After our Boy Scouts days, he went out of my radar screen. He never hurt me. So, I have no reason to nurse a grudge. Our paths crossed only recently over the issue of his defection to the Macapagal administration. I have absolutely no reason to envy Ople's checkered political career marked by being on the wrong side of history and of collaboration with the Marcos dictatorship and the Estrada regime, only to dump them at the end.

No one said Ople abused his powers in government. But in his valedictory, he abused the privilege of parliamentary immunity. He used the privilege to spread false information. He said he has been told I was engaged in the lobbying for the importation of Australian beef. But he also said he did not believe in the "canard." If he did not give it credence, why did he say it within the sanctuary of parliamentary immunity? This insertion is a malicious insinuation for allegations he could not substantiate and for which he does not want to be responsible. For the record, I am not engaged in any kind of lobbying. Let me tell you this. If I did not go on exile to Australia after being jailed by Marcos, my professional growth and independence would have been strangled by the dictatorship which Ople served so well.

Lest we be distracted with these past incidents, which have nothing to do with the issues of the controversy over Ople's defection, I wish to emphasize that his valedictory was a rambling speech that highlights the trivial. It displayed an inability to mount cogent and factually based arguments. He left the Senate without dignity. When Ople confronts foreign governments in negotiations over issues involving national interests, there's concern over whether he has the intellectual discipline to defend these interests or to elicit respect from foreign governments.

DV is an anti-poverty issue

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

WHAT does a program addressing spousal and child abuse have to do with fighting poverty? This was a question posed by a media man during the launching of the Venue for Initiative and Genuine Development (Vine) Foundation Inc. last Monday.

Vine Foundation is a consortium of five NGOs—Bidlisiw Foundation, Norfil and World Vision, with the Legal Alternatives for Women or LAW Inc., and the Children's Legal Bureau—all of which operate in the cities of Mandaue and Lapulapu and the towns of Cordova and Consolacion, which make up Cebu's sixth congressional district now represented by Rep. Nerissa Soon-Ruiz.

In 1997, a "Bantay Banay (Community Watch)" project in the sixth district was initiated by Lihok Pilipina with the support of Soon-Ruiz. The "Bantay Banay for Peace" project covered 30 barangays in the district and sought to address the issue of domestic violence through advocacy, training, legal aid and community organizing. But when, in 1998, Soon-Ruiz decided to run for mayor of Mandaue and lost, the project withered on the vine, so to speak.

Having successfully won back her congressional seat last year, Soon-Ruiz says she's learned her lesson. "It's time we institutionalized a project like this for women and children so that even if the issue is not that high on the list of priorities of officials, then at least the programs will still be in place," she states. The work of Vine Foundation is now known as an "Integrated Family Development Program," covering all 91 barangays in the sixth district with projects in advocacy, training, legal aid and livelihood assistance.

Vine Foundation will also set up a crisis intervention center to provide temporary shelter as well as psycho-social and legal counseling to women and children survivors of abuse.

Initially, Vine Foundation's work shall be supported by a budget of P12 million for three years, with P5 million allocated for the operation of the crisis center, accessed through Soon-Ruiz's congressional development fund. At the launching, the congresswoman, DSWD regional director Teodulo Romo, and Bidlisiw Foundation, as the conduit NGO and fund manager, signed a memorandum of agreement on the operations of the crisis center.

* * *

BUT back to the media man's question. Was Soon-Ruiz veering from the stated priority of government of poverty alleviation by allocating congressional development funds to a project for women and children?

The congresswoman replied that in fact a key program of the foundation is livelihood assistance. Economic independence, she said, would not only help women support their families if they decide to leave their abusive husbands, it would also raise a woman's self-esteem, and make them less

vulnerable to mistreatment, with no need to remain in an abusive relationship for the sake of survival.

Domestic violence is not only a personal or relationship issue, but also a development issue. Violence in the home holds back a woman from participating fully in the process of development. If a woman is prevented from leaving the home without her husband's permission, if she must stay home, away from prying eyes, until the bruises and marks of her injuries have faded, and if she feels she has no right to make plans or decisions for herself, then she is effectively prevented from discovering and living up to her full potential. If by eradicating domestic violence and all other forms of violence against women, we free the energies, creativity and passion of women as full partners of development, then we would most certainly have made major inroads in the fight against poverty.

A medical doctor by training and the mother of young children, Soon-Ruiz has long been committed to the cause of women and children. Vine Foundation is only the latest reflection of her commitment to the cause, even if, she avers, she will not sit on the foundation's board or have a hand in the implementation of its projects. "I want to keep its work above politics," she declares.

* * *

INDEED, Cebu has shown that domestic violence enjoys quite a high priority among its elective officials. Quite recently, both the Cebu City Council as well as the Provincial Board passed ordinances penalizing domestic violence and providing protective measures for women and child victims of abuse.

In so doing, Cebu city and province have managed to race ahead of the national government and Congress, where a law on domestic violence is still mired in debate.

The anti-domestic violence ordinance was principally authored by BM Josefina Patricia Asirit, with board members Estrella Yapha, Manuel Masangkay, Victor Maambong, Joven Mondigo and Jose Ma. Gastardo, and the Cebu Provincial Women's Commission assisting.

Among the more notable features of the provincial ordinance is the "barangay protection order" which may be issued by the barangay chair upon petition of the victim. The BPO makes it possible for local officials to "remove and exclude (the abuser) from the residence of the abused person temporarily for the purpose of protecting the victim regardless of the ownership of the residence."

The protection order is deemed necessary, says Lolet Alino of LAW and the Cebu women's commission, because usually it's the wife and children who are compelled to leave the family home to escape the abusive husband. "It's the innocent parties who are rendered homeless while the abuser stays home," observes Lolet. That doesn't have to be the case now, at least not in Cebu.

The history in Philippine art

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

THREE of the country's leading private museums—the Ateneo Art Gallery, the Ayala Museum, and the Lopez Memorial Museum—are undergoing a curatorial face-lift for a simultaneous show called "Zero-in: Private Art/Public Lives," opening this August. Since we often hear gripes about lack of state funding for culture and the arts, it is a welcome change to see these museums banding together and doing something in spite of tight budgets. The three shows in the three museums highlight the strengths of their respective collections as a means of helping us reevaluate the way in which we know and perceive Philippine art history.

Perhaps the new winds blowing can be credited to a change in leadership—all museums have new directors who are all young. Of course, the old Ayala Museum has been torn down and the historical dioramas are in Glorietta where they can be viewed by more people. Collections and curatorial offices are temporarily in the old Makati Stock Excha[illegible] build[illegible] pending the completion of a new building. Dr. Nina Baker has utilized the move to exhibit some of their treasures and giving viewers a new look at old things. Paintings by Amorsolo and Damian Domingo's watercolors of Philippine life more popularly known as "Tipos del pais," I would see and pass by in the past, but in a different set-up I stop, look and notice what escaped me before.

The Ateneo Gallery was the same story. I visited it over 20 years ago when I was a student and aside from visiting old favorites—H.R. Ocampo, Fernando Zobel and Arturo Luz's early works—I ignored everything else, maybe because the paintings weren't moved around. I would think the display remained basically unchanged since the first time I visited the gallery. Now there are new acquisitions or donations given prominent space, then R.S. Lerma took out everything and mounted a new show that reminded us that contemporary art in the Ateneo is alive and well.

In the Lopez Memorial Museum I would often pass the Luna and Resurreccion Hidalgo galleries on the way to the library which is my home away from home. Under Mercedes L. Vargas and curator Yeyey Cruz the museum has drawn in a younger set with an exhibit of GI Joe dolls! This was something Eugenio Lopez Sr. would not have imagined when he founded the museum ages ago. Last Saturday, digging up material on the clash between "conservative" and "modern" painters in the Philippines in the 1950s, I noticed that all the Lunas and Resurreccion Hidalgos had been tak[illegible] the walls. For the first time, a selection will be on view and the rest kept in st[illegible]age. Also for the first time, the paintings are made to relate with the original manuscript letters of Jose Rizal also in the museum. Looking at part of the collection made me reevaluate all the things I thought I knew about Luna and Resurreccion Hidalgo.

For example, the 19th-century Filipino masters Juan Luna and Felix Resurreccion Hidalgo have been fossilized by history. They are known in history textbooks as the first "international" Filipino painters for winning in the 1884 Madrid Exposition of Fine Arts. Luna is permanently linked with the "Spoliarium" and Resurreccion Hidalgo with "Christian Virgins exposed to the mob." These works may have won medals in 1884, but these pictures were used by propagandists like Rizal and Graciano Lopez Jaena as allegories of the Spanish colonization of the Philippines. These pictures may be good works, but they are definitely not the best works of these painters. By focusing on the works Luna completed in Paris we can compare and contrast his changing style and temperament over time. For Resurreccion Hidalgo we go beyond the quiet seascapes and look at the way in which he attempts to interpret political themes.

In a similar way Fernando Amorsolo will be the star of the Ayala Museum show. The difference being that there will be no pastoral scenes with *dalagas* on smiling carabaos illuminated by the characteristic Amorsolo lighting. Instead we have a selection of historical paintings and studies commissioned by the Ayala group of companies in the 1950s and 1960s. Amorsolo had to stretch his imagination to capture scenes like the First Mass in the Philippines or other vignettes on the encounter between the pre-colonial Filipinos and the Spaniards in the 16th and 17th-centuries. These paintings not only show us a little-known facet of Amorsolo's work but more importantly, it reflects Amorsolo's vision of Philippine history. One could also use Amorsolo's paintings as visual documents and talk about the state of postwar Philippine historiography.

I am not so clear about the Ateneo exhibit but I guess we take a leap from Luna, Resurreccion Hidalgo and Amorsolo into the works of struggling painters (with the exception of Fernando Zobel) who revolved around the pioneering Philippine Art Gallery run by Lyd Arguilla. The roster of painters now reads like a whos-who: Hernando Ocampo, Fernando Zobel, Vicente Manansala, Nena Saguil, Arturo Luz, Anita Magsaysay-Ho, now blue chip stocks in the art market. Just talking about the shows makes ideas fly in the mind and the eye—what more when all these open in August? As they say, *abangan*.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

Seventy-five, diamond and gold

HIGH BLOOD

Silverio F. Aquino

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. —Ed.

ON JUNE 20, 2002, I celebrated my 74th birthday in a resort in Bulacan with my children Marife, Zeny and Jojo, SJ and Paulette and their kids. I enjoyed watching [illegible] romp on the grounds and splash in the swimming pool but [illegible] not happy because Mama was not with me. She was in Los Angeles and she celebrated her 75th birthday on July 27 without me.

As I thought about Mama in the resort, I remembered that five years ago she was with me and she had a big birthday party in a high-class hotel. Many relatives and friends came and Mama was proud, happy and beautiful.

Before her celebration, I felt a little sad because having retired I could no longer give her my usual gift. In better times, I gave her a yearly check for an amount equivalent to P1,000 multiplied by the number of her years, like the check for P69,000 I gave when she turned 69. I hasten to say that to Mama, bless her, what really mattered was the gesture of giving her the check. She did not keep the money for herself. It was set aside for the proverbial rainy day for the family.

The better times had gone and so before her birthday on July 27, 1997 I sat down to write, not a check, but an article about Mama. I brought it to the biggest daily, the INQUIRER. The editor in chief published it probably because she was touched by it and wanted husbands to read it or because of its eye-catching title, which was "Gold and Seven-ty."

My piece was published in the INQUIRER a few days before Mama's birthday and so I was able to give a copy to Mama with my note to her. "Mama, this is my gift and tribute to you. Happy birthday. Daddy." My children liked it and had it framed in glass and mounted it on an easel that they placed at the entrance of the ballroom of the hotel where the party was held.

The piece now occupies a special place in our home. Inside the glass also is Mama's picture as the lovely high school graduate I fell in love with. I pasted outside the glass frame a colored picture taken during the party. It shows Mama blowing out the candles on her birthday cake. It also includes a large colored banner showing her portrait as the lovely teaching graduate I was in love with and the bold words, "Gold and Seven-ty, Happy birthday Mama, July 24, 1997."

I am not a writer and I confess that I myself was surprised that I could write "Gold and Seven-ty." An explanation for this is my love for Mama, which was inspiration enough for me. Another explanation is that I had no trouble writing about her as she really is a wonderful and lovely woman, mother and wife, who happened to be charmed with the No. 7. And so I was able to say truthfully in my last paragraph that, "All this confirms that my wife has given my children and me golden years of love, caring and togetherness. My wife, thank God, is gold and seven-ty."

This time, when Mama's 75th birthday came a few days ago, I was in a quandary as to what gift I would give her. I have had some business problems and I thought I was already poor.

Earlier, my son SJ had tried to lift my spirits after we lost our new 45-room hotel, but I was not consoled. Then, I realized that he had mentioned Mama alongside our remaining assets and he said, "Dad you are still a winner." I recalled my "Gold and Seven-ty" and I smiled at the fact that Mama through our years together, has been my helpmate and has loved me so much, ignoring my many faults as her lifetime partner. Who says I am poor?

Later, something good happened. My sister-in-law, Melia, called from Los Angeles to tell me that she, her husband, Tino, her other sisters, my children and other relatives in Los Angeles felt deeply that I should be with Mama on her 75th birthday. Melia said that my plane ticket to Los Angeles was on the way. With the so many compassionate relatives, who says I am poor?

Moreover, I know Mama wants me in Los Angeles because in her many calls she always asked if I was coming to her party. Her voice was always soft but full of love and longing. Indeed, who says I am poor?

And so I have decided to write this piece about Mama, maybe as a sequel to what I had written about her five years ago.

There is a saying that people are like wine, age bettering the good and ruining the bad. Mama is like a good wine. She is still the sweet woman with many 7s that charm her. She is still the practical and economical home manager I had written about. But after five years, Mama has become better in many ways. She has put on more weight as most women do in time, but her additional plumpness becomes Mama very much because she now looks like a lovable doll and is now more beautiful and sweet. Also, she has become closer to and more concerned about her children and her 16 (so far) grandchildren and their future.

I had said earlier in "Gold and Seven-ty" that I never heard her say the magical words "I love you," although I was sure she cared for and loved me. But I feel more loved now. From Los Angeles she often calls and sends me letters that tell me she cares very much. When she is at home in Quezon City, she devotes most of her time to me and meets all my needs as if tomorrow I would die! The words in her birthday invitation, "75th (Diamond) birthday" is quite apt. At 75, Mama has become a more loving and caring wife and mother.

Mama, thank God, is 75, diamond and gold.

THEY SAID

Legit bedmate

"Of course I don't sleep with [illegible] only sleep with my wife. But I never consider the opposition as an enemy."

—Sen. Manuel Villar

Deep and more durable

"If the opposition claimed that they are solid as a rock, the relationship among administration senators can be described as deep as the deep blue sea that can wash away all kinds of rock."

—Sen. Robert Barbers

The INQUIRER is a member of the
PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE
The National Association of Philippine [illegible]

Cheaper medicines is a serious gov't program

THIS letter is in reaction to the comment about the parallel drug importation program of the Department of Trade and Industry that Neal H. Cruz wrote in his column on July 26, 2002.

I write to stress that the government is very serious in its efforts to bring down the prices of medicines. Indeed the past two and half years of our "Presyong Tama, Gamot Pampamilya" program was a long, hard climb for us given the substantial, well-entrenched interests in the industry which would have wanted to see us fail miserably.

Even as Cruz belittled our efforts, we have attained concrete, measurable achievements consistent with our plans for "Presyong Tama, Gamot Pampamilya." The 26 branded medicines that we import and supply at prices 20 percent to 80 percent lower than what drugstores charge are now available in about 270 outlets all over the country, a continuously expanding network that includes national government hospitals and local government health facilities.

Our original distribution plan was to tap the national government hospitals on the first year, expand the coverage to include the LGU health facilities on the second year and we are on track on this. We are working to further widen our distribution network to make these medicines available to a greater number of people.

I have a personal experience in dealing with catastrophic illnesses in the family and I know how easily one's life savings and other assets could be depleted in providing adequate health care for our loved ones. I am also aware how financially straining it is to cure illnesses or sustain the health of our loved ones as, most of the time, these entail lifetime maintenance medicines.

I therefore take exception at Cruz's cheap shot of referring to our efforts as purely *"porma."* Just to set the record straight, I was an advocate of this even as a congressman more than five years ago and followed through my commitment upon my appointment as trade secretary. I initiated the "Presyong Tama, Gamot Pampamilya" parallel importation program when nobody was taking a serious look into the high prices of medicines and long before it was fashionable to do so. Moreover, Cruz's reference to Pharma 50 may be a case of mistaken identity. The program he was referring to was initiated by the Department of Health and an expansion of what the DTI had started.

I continue to stand by this commitment by carrying our voice all the way to the World Trade Organization where member countries signed a Ministerial Declaration on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) to allow for the mandatory licensing of drugs to address public health issues. I was one of those from the developing countries who asserted on the right of sovereign states to override patents and have open access to cheaper generic drugs.

Cruz and I may have differences in opinion on how the cement issue was handled but be that as it may, I believe that is best debated apart from our very important work on medicines. But let the facts speak for themselves—the prices of cement have remained stable, supply is adequate and the factories have continued operating, and the thousands of workers who depend on them for a living kept their jobs.

Cruz and I find ourselves having a common goal of bringing down the cost of health care in our country and I look forward to partnering with him in this effort.

**—MAR ROXAS, secretary,
Department of Trade and
Industry, 4/F Industry and
Investment Bldg., 385 Sen Gil. J.
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

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Sona addressed not the nation but the United States

THE STATE of the Nation Address of President Macapagal-Arroyo is an interesting speech in that it was addressed not to the Filipino people but to the United States. Its focus on corruption within and without the judiciary and on criminality was a direct response to the concerns raised by US Ambassador to the Philippines Francis Ricciardone on Monday, July 15. The strongest statement that appeared in the President's speech was her affirmation of her military alliance with the United States and her plan to expand the program of military training with Washington. President Macapagal claims that her alliance with the United States in the so-called war against terror has enhanced the credibility and security of the Philippines. However, it is likely that the opposite is the case. The military response has deepened the alienation of the Filipino Muslims and the expanding US military presence in the South is likely to bring us into confrontation with our Muslim neighbors in Indonesia and Malaysia. Nowhere in her speech did the President address the issues of religious discrimination, cultural prejudice, internal colonialism and economic injustice that lie at the root of Muslim and Moro discontent.

The President's speech was littered with unsubstantiated assertions and misleading statements. Her claim that the hostage-rescue mission that saw the loss of two hostages' lives, was a success, flies in the face of reality. Her claim that the Abu Sayyaf has been defeated with the alleged death of one of its leaders is pure hyperbole.

Her claim that the Philippines is one of the third best performing economy in Asia and the best in Southeast Asia is hard to swallow. She substantiates this claim with the example of the price of *galunggong*, or the poor man's fish, having remained stable. But this at best is squid tactics. She claims that the poor can still buy these viands at cheap prices but she does not mention where the poor will get their money; especially when unemployment has risen to a record high of 13.9 percent and underemployment at 19.6 percent. The Philippines, or as she calls it, the best performing economy in Southeast Asia, has continually ranked first in the unemployment rate in Asia since 1998. The Philippines also, in case she has forgotten which country she is President of, is still suffering from unabated poverty and fast-rising inequality, with the poverty incidence at a high of 34.2 percent.

Similarly, her claim that her land reform program is a success, is grossly misleading. In fact, land redistribution during 2001 was the lowest in the history of CARP. The 100,000-hectare target she set is the lowest any administration has ever set. So when she says that her administration has overachieved in the sense of fulfilling 103 percent of her target is purely a case where the target was set so low in the first place that any claim of success is ridiculous. Yes, she isn't a miracle worker, we've heard her say that often enough, as if as a disclaimer tag. But we aren't looking for miracles, just basic rights and services.

The President has also engaged in mythmaking. She depicted her father's, "the poor man from Lubao," accomplishments as among the greatest in presidential history and that she was building on this record. This could not be any farther from the truth. In fact, Diosdado Macapagal's record was one of the worst. It was her father after all, who adopted the program of 1962 that introduced the 30-year subjection to the International Monetary Fund of our economy, with all its attendant negative consequences.

If there is one thing that father and daughter share in common, it is their policy of subordination of Philippine national interests to the United States. Time is running out on President Macapagal. The legitimacy of her administration is eroding. The clamor of the forces demanding change is becoming greater and greater. The fate of her administration depends on her response.

**—WALDEN BELLO, chair, Akbayan!;
MARY LOUISE MALIG, Focus on the
Global South**

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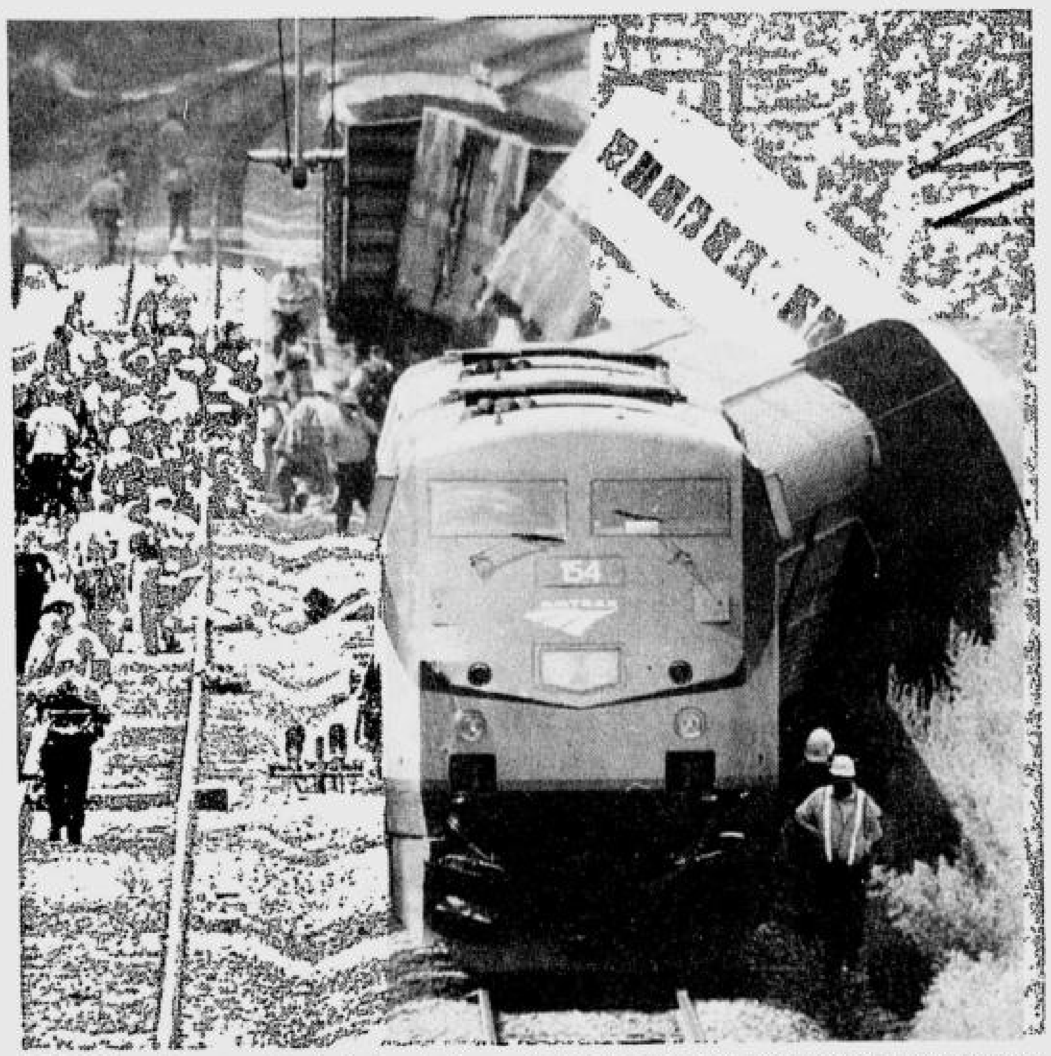
The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**



RESCUE workers tend to the injured after an Amtrak passenger train derailed in Kensington, Maryland, a Washington DC suburb, July 29.
REUTERS

Suicide bomber grabbed near US Embassy in Kabul

KABUL, Afghanistan—A suicide bomber arrested Monday by Afghan authorities was just 300 meters from the US Embassy when he was stopped by a chance traffic accident, a top Afghan intelligence official reported Tuesday.

Foreign intelligence information indicated the alleged terrorist, who was captured after a car chase through Kabul, is a foreigner and a member of the al-Qaida terror group, said Amonullah Barakzai, deputy director of the Afghan intelligence service.

"He was on a suicide mission," Barakzai said. But he said Afghan authorities were not sure whether his target was the embassy, other foreign installations or the Afghan leadership, including President Hamid Karzai, whose palace offices are little more than a kilometer from the accident scene.

An Interior Ministry spokesperson said late Monday a second unidentified man also had been arrested in the case. But Barakzai reported only the single arrest, and said investigators had not determined the man's identity or nationality.

"Unfortunately for the past 24 hours we have not been able to make him speak," he said.

The Kabul government sent additional troops into the capital's streets late Monday to guard against new attacks.

The alleged car-bombing attempt was the latest development feeding concern about security in Kabul in the wake of the killing of Vice President Abdul Qadir three weeks ago. A Turkish-led international security force patrols Kabul as foreigners train a new Afghan national army, police force and bodyguard contingent to protect the Afghan Cabinet.

A spokesperson for the international security force, British Maj. Angela Herbert, said Tuesday she had no information to offer on the car incident, and added, "Nobody can confirm either way who the target was."

A government television report Monday night on the arrest was accompanied by video of the man's Toyota Corolla, whose door panels were exposed to show yellow blocks of what the intelligence service statement said was explosives.

The report also showed a photo of the suspect, a heavily bearded young man in a waistcoat and open shirt. His dress and appearance seemed Afghan or Pakistani, but the government statement read by the station said only that he was a foreigner and the plan was developed abroad.

Barakzai said the Corolla collided with a Toyota Land Cruiser late Monday morning along Microyan Road by the government printing center, around the corner from the sprawling, heavily guarded US Embassy. A tall steel outer wall was erected at the embassy four months ago.

"He didn't stop and drove off at high speed from the accident," Barakzai said. "A mobile patrol from the Kabul security office was nearby and drove after him." *AP*

Amtrak train derails; 97 hurt

KENSINGTON, Maryland—An Amtrak passenger train derailed Monday in a northern Washington suburb, injuring 97 people, six of them seriously, in the fourth accident on US railways in as many months.

"There are six people being treated for life-threatening injuries, but there are no fatalities among the 90-odd injuries," said Frank Fulton, spokesman for the Maryland Mass Transit Authority.

The accident involved "Capitol Limited," a 13-car train traveling from Chicago to Washington with 161 passengers and 12 crew members aboard.

Eleven of the cars, including all eight passenger cars, tipped over when the train derailed around 1:55 p.m. near the town of Kensington, Maryland, some 20 km north of Washington.

Some of the derailed cars came to rest just meters away from a strip of local shops in the middle class suburb.

Jim Hendrick, a worker at a nearby tire store who was one of the first on the scene, said that many passengers emerged from the wreckage by themselves, some of them carrying their luggage.

"Everyone seemed kind of dazed, but it was pretty orderly," he said.

Others needed the assistance of fire crews to get out of the train, he added.

Some 250 firefighters came to the scene of the accident. The local Montgomery County Fire Department was only about 300 meters away and responded quickly.

Mark Hoover, whose antique store is less than 100 meters from the wreckage, said locals did what little they could to help the emergency services.

"We brought water, did everything we could to help. Thank God everyone survived," he said.

Dozens of passengers sat on the tracks nearby in temperatures near 40 degrees Celsius, before being taken to two triage areas set up in antique stores nearby. The injured were then taken to two local hospitals.

The Kensington derailment was the fourth passenger train accident in the United States in as many months.

Four people were killed and more than 200 injured on April 18 when an Amtrak train derailed in Florida.

Five days later, two people were killed and 265 injured in a collision between a passenger train and a freight train near Los Angeles, and on May 14 a train derailed after hitting a truck at a street-level crossing in South Carolina, injuring two people.

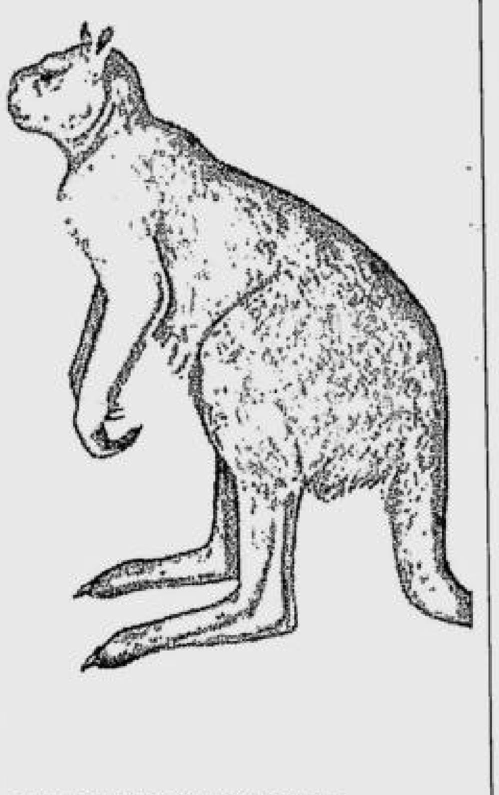
The stretch of track on which the Capitol Limited derailed was owned by freight carrier CSX Corporation, according to an Amtrak spokesperson.

Transport officials warned of substantial disruption on roads and rails in the area as authorities diverted some 5,000 commuters who use the closed line.

The derailed cars were expected to remain on the track until investigators finish their search for clues as to the cause of the accident.

"We have already begun our investigation into this aftenoon's events," said Carol Camody, the National Transportation Safety Board vice-chair, who has taken over the investigation into the incident.

"We have recovered the two event boxes and we are downloading them now. This will give us the train speed and what the engineer was doing at that time," she said, adding that in keeping with procedure the engineer had also been tested for drug use. *AFP*



KANGAROO GOLIATH AFP

This handout obtained July 30 shows a drawing of a giant kangaroo known as 'procoptodon goliah.' Scientists announced that complete skeletons, which dated by 1.5 million years, of the kangaroo have been discovered in a cave on the Nullarbor Plain in outback Australia which also contains the skeletons of giant marsupial lions and wombats the size of a small car.

Air strikes can't knock out Iraq's arms—Rumsfeld

SUFFOLK, Virginia—Destroying Iraqi weapons with bombs is difficult because Baghdad hides its weapons, moves them and knows US secrets for detecting them, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld says.

Rumsfeld was asked at a news conference Monday why the United States doesn't strike Iraqi chemical and biological weapons sites rather than waiting any longer.

"The Iraqis have a great deal of what they do deeply buried," he answered.

He also said American spies defecting to the Soviet Union or Russia passed on intelligence that the Russians then spread "as to how we do things . . . how another country can best achieve denial and deception and avoid having the location . . . of things known."

Rumsfeld said biological labs can be in trailers, making them mobile.

"So the idea that it's easy to simply go do what you suggested ought to be done from the air ... is a misunderstanding of the situation," he said.

Rumsfeld made the comments while visiting the US Joint Forces Command in Virginia, where he was briefed on a military experiment aimed at planning for warfighting of the future.

Rumsfeld's comments were the latest in the continuing public debate over the Bush administration goal of toppling Iraqi President Saddam Hussein from power.

Bush already has approved covert action against Saddam and directed the CIA to increase support to Iraqi opposition groups. Six Iraqi opposition leaders are visiting Washington for talks next month.

Congress has supported Bush's demands for Saddam's removal, but has questions: How much of a threat does Iraq pose to the United States? How many US soldiers might die? How would other countries respond? Who would replace Saddam? How long would the United States have to keep troops there?

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee will discuss Iraq policy in hearings Wednesday and Thursday with foreign policy analysts and former US government officials.

"I think there are a number of difficult questions that need to be asked before Congress would support a resolution of war against Iraq," said Sen. Chuck Hagel, a Nebraska Republican who is a member of the committee. *AP*

Japan's Koizumi faces no-confidence move

TOKYO—Japan's opposition submitted a no-confidence motion on Tuesday against Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi even as his sagging popularity shows signs of climbing again.

The move, which comes a day before parliament ends and is doomed to fail, is little more than a symbolic flexing of political muscles to demonstrate that the opposition remains a presence before several by-elections later this year.

Koizumi, whose support ratings this year took a battering that nearly halved them from 90 percent when he took office in April last year, has seen his popularity recover slightly in recent weeks amid a sense he has renewed his commitment to reform.

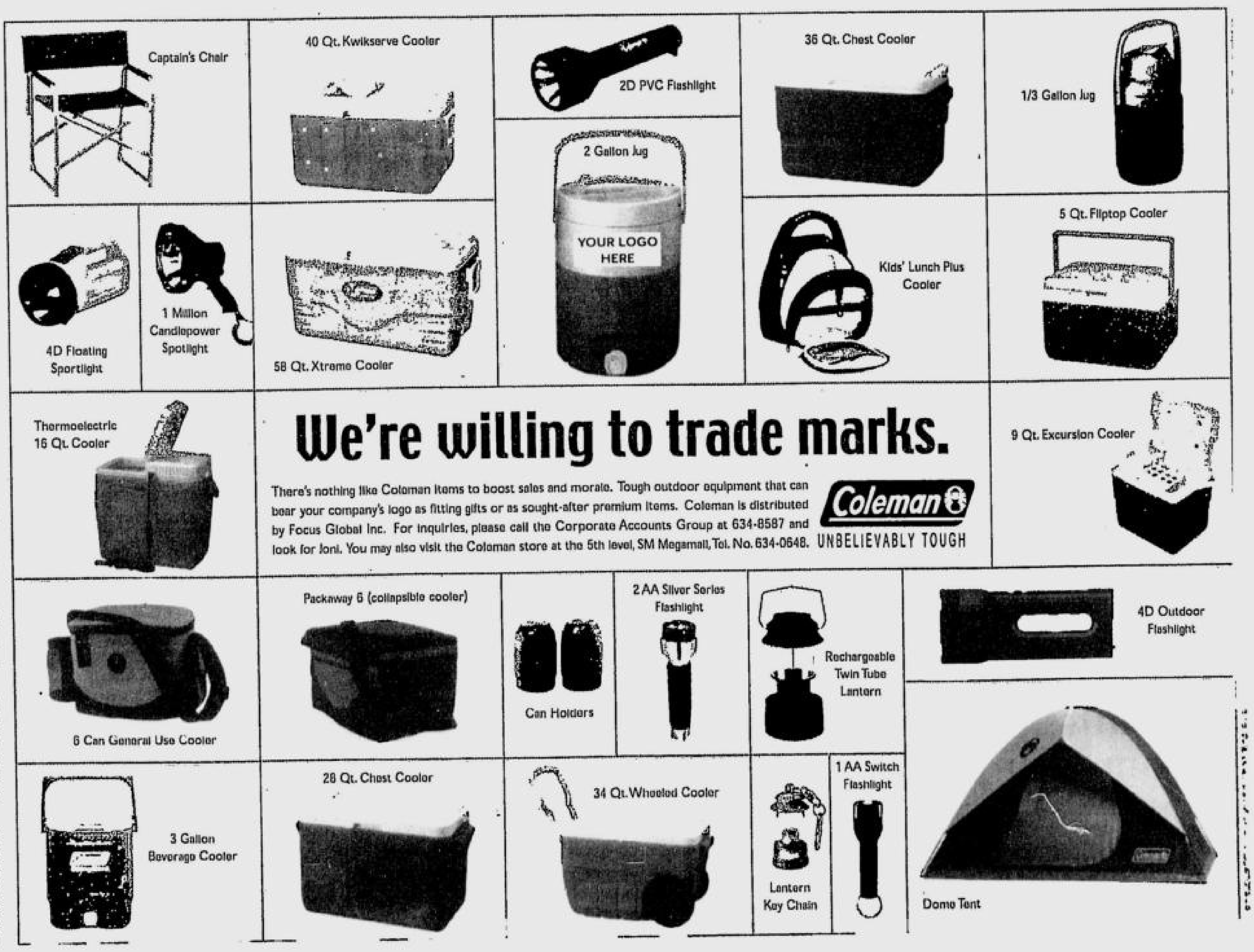
The motion was handed to Tamisuke Watanuki, speaker of the powerful Lower House of parliament, by a somber-faced Naoto Kan, secretary general of the main opposition Democratic Party.

A vote is due later in the day but leaders of the ruling coalition that commands a huge majority in parliament have vowed to reject it, making failure inevitable.

"It's far better to register our lack of confidence in this government than simply to let parliament end without doing anything," a Democratic Party official told Reuters, explaining the decision to file a motion doomed to fail.

Opposition leaders have said they want to protest against what they say is the failure of Koizumi's government to properly economic problems and control the corruption that has tarnished this session of parliament with several scandals involving leading members of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

Ex-upper house member Muneo Suzuki has been arrested on bribery charges while former Koizumi ally Koichi Kato was forced to resign in connection with a scandal involving an aide. Upper House speaker Yutaka Inoue quit in May for similar reasons. *Reuters*



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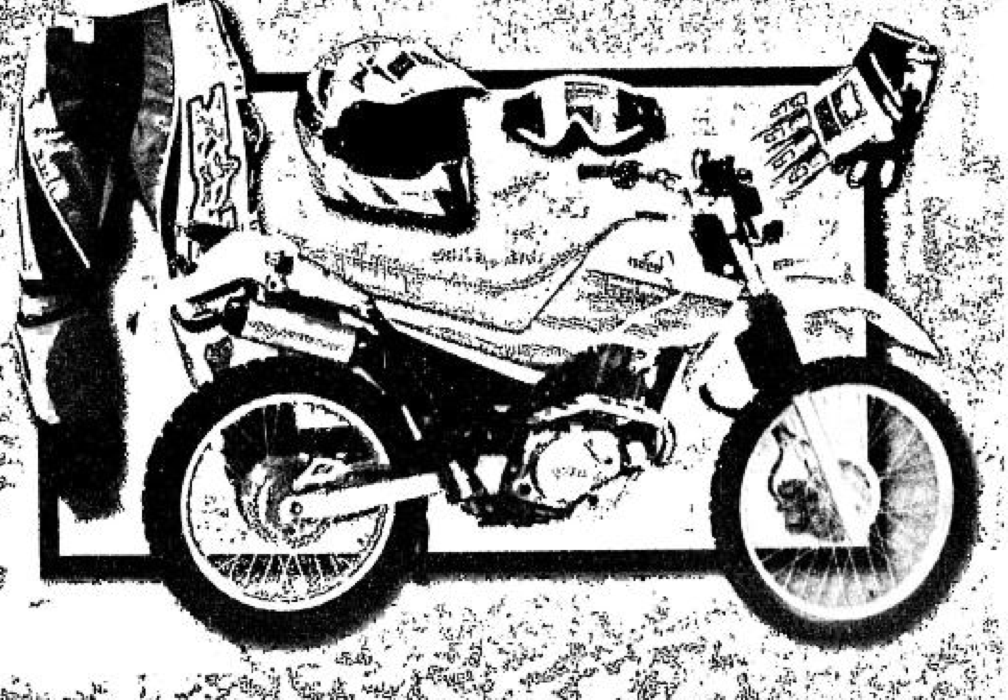

10 OUTDOOR ADVENTURE SETS

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Batangas

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BF Homes, Parañaque

MICHELLE CATAPANG
San Andres, Manila

LAZARO DE GUZMAN
Bulacan

RODOLFO DELA CRUZ
Cabanatuan

DENNIS FURBEYRE
Dumaguete

ALFONZO MARCELINO
Davao

EDWARD TRINIDAD
Caloocan

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4. **AMBALA, AURORA** PANGASINAN
5. **ARANETA, PACITA** POBLACION ANILAO, ILOILO
6. **ARICAYOS, ALEXANDER** LAPU-LAPU CITY
7. **BADILLA, CARMELITA** TONDO, MANILA
8. **BERMIZ, CARLOS** CEBU CITY
9. **CANICULA, NORMITO** MARIKINA CITY
10. **CAPARAS, EMELITA** STA CRUZ, MANILA
11. **CASTROJO, WILFREDO** ZAMBOANGA CITY
12. **CHUA, JONATHAN** LEYTE
13. **CORONEL, THELMA** TONDO, MANILA
14. **CRISOSTOMO, MANUEL** TONDO, MANILA
15. **CRUZ, ERWIN ROMMEL** SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA
16. **CRUZ, LAURO** CABANATUAN CITY
17. **CRUZ, MARC JEREMY** CALUMPANG
18. **CRUZ, VEDASTO** FORT BONIFACIO, MAKATI CITY
19. **DAOMILAS, LAMBERTHA** CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY
20. **DE LA CERNA, COSME** LAPU-LAPU CITY, CEBU
21. **DE LOS REYES, EDGARDO** TONDO, MANILA
22. **EPAL, MICHAEL** DAVAO CITY
23. **ERQUITA, CHRISTOPHER FELIX** CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY
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26. **HERNAEZ, HELENITA** MANDALUYONG CITY
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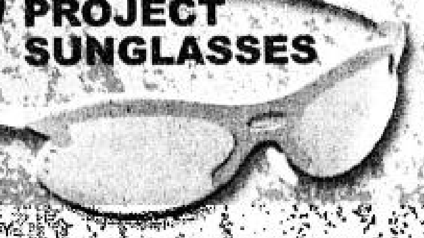
43. **SEE, LEONA** ORIENTAL, MINDORO
44. **SO, NERIE** QUEZON CITY
45. **TEMPORAL, ANATHOLY** CALOOCAN CITY
46. **TORREGROSA, ROMMEL APOLINARIO** CALOOCAN CITY
47. **TORRES, LYDIA FE** NUEVA ECIJA
48. **TUZON, SHARON MEI** TAGUIG, METRO MANILA
49. **VILLANUEVA, ARNOLD** BATANGAS
50. **YU, NESTOR** BATANGAS

150 RUDY PROJECT SUNGLASSES



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124. **SORIANO, MODESTO** STA. MARIA, BULACAN
125. **SUMATRA, ARWIN** WEST TRIANGLE, QUEZON CITY
126. **SY, FELICITAS** PASAY CITY
127. **TADURAN, SONNY** TAGUIG, METRO MANILA
128. **TAGOCTOC, MARILOU** QUEZON CITY
129. **TALEON, LOVE** CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY
130. **TALOSIG JR, MANUEL** BACLARAN, PARAÑAQUE CITY
131. **TAMONAN, DENNIS** MAKATI CITY
132. **TANGLAO, RAYMUND** CAPAS, TARLAC
133. **TATLONGMARIA, RAMON** MUNTINLUPA CITY
134. **TIGBAYAN, MA. THERESA** SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA
135. **TOBIDS, JANICE** NUEVA ECIJA
136. **TUAZON, RAUL** NAVOTAS, METRO MANILA
137. **UY, SITO** CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY
138. **UYANGURIN, MELLIE ALIM** KIDAPAWAN CITY
139. **VALENCIA, JOANNE** PASAY CITY
140. **VALENZUELA, GABRIEL** SUCAT, PARAÑAQUE CITY
141. **VALERO, JOSE VICTOR** QUEZON CITY
142. **VILLACUATRO, ROLANDO** BACOLOD CITY
143. **VILLANUEVA, ESTRELLITA** CAVITE
144. **VILLANUEVA, JOSEPH RYAN** QUEZON CITY
145. **VILLANUEVA, LOUIE** LIPA, BATANGAS
146. **YU, CHRISTIAN** PASAY CITY
147. **YU, JOHN MICHAEL** PASAY CITY
148. **YU, ROSA RUBLE** LEYTE
149. **ZANORIA, DAVE** LAS PIÑAS CITY
150. **ZULUAGA, MA. MAGDALENA** PARAÑAQUE CITY

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2. **ABRICO, REYMOND** NEGROS OCCIDENTAL
3. **AGUILAR, GENARO** BULACAN
4. **ALGARNA, PAOLO ALVIN** QUEZON CITY
5. **ALMARIO, JESSE ALLEN** MARULAS, VALENZUELA CITY
6. **ALVAREZ, ROWENA** BACOLOD CITY
7. **AMADEO, DANNY** BACOLOD CITY
8. **ANDERSON, JOAN** QUEZON CITY
9. **ANDICO, ALFREDO** NOVALICHES, QUEZON CITY
10. **ANGELES, HARRY** PASIG CITY
11. **ANTARAN, MARZY** NUEVA ECIJA
12. **ANTONIO JR., AUGUSTO** MARIKINA CITY
13. **AQUINO, ROLAND** CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY
14. **ARAGONES, RICKY** ZAMBOANGA CITY
15. **ARBISO, SAMUEL** MAKATI CITY
16. **ARRIOLA, CERELINA** MALABON CITY
17. **ASIDRE JR., REYNALDO** PANGASINAN
18. **BAGOT, RODEL** CALBAYOG CITY
19. **BAJOS, JOEY** NAVOTAS, METRO MANILA
20. **BALITA JR., RUEL** ORIENTAL MINDORO
21. **BARRINA, ALODIA** NOVALICHES, QUEZON CITY
22. **BASTAN, JINKY** ILOILO
23. **BAUTISTA, CLEMENTE** MALATE, MANILA
24. **BAUTISTA III, DEMETRIO** VALENZUELA CITY
25. **BAUTISTA SON, GLORIA** QUEZON CITY
26. **BAYOLA, ALLAN** DILIMAN, QUEZON CITY
27. **BELGA, EPIFANIA** MARIKINA CITY
28. **BELLEZA, EDITHA** QUEZON CITY
29. **BELLEZA JR., ROMERO** ILOILO CITY
30. **BINO, MARISSA** TAGUIG, METRO MANILA
31. **BISA, MA. CRISTINA** NOVALICHES, QUEZON CITY
32. **BOLYRON JR., SALVADOR** BATANGAS CITY
33. **BONIFACIO, ARCELI** BULACAN
34. **BORJA, JENNIE LYN** SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA
35. **BRAZAL, ALFREDO** BATANGAS CITY
36. **BRUDBORY, SALVADOR** QUEZON CITY
37. **BULAONG, JASON** NUEVA ECIJA
38. **BULLECER, EDNA** DAVAO
39. **BUMATAY, RANDY** CALOOCAN CITY
40. **CABARLES, ROLANDO** ROXAS CITY
41. **CADAVEZ, JAYLINEK** PARAÑAQUE CITY
42. **CALAS, ANTONIO** BACOLOD CITY
43. **CALDERON, JHANES RICHARD** PASIG CITY
44. **CALICA, JEANETTE** QUEZON CITY
45. **CAMAMA, ANTONIO** CAVITE
46. **CAMERINO, ROSMOND** CAVITE
47. **CAMONAY, JERRY** ISABELA
48. **CAMPO, CELESTE** QUEZON CITY
49. **CANTILLON, DANILO** VALENZUELA CITY
50. **CARDEÑAS, ERWIN** BUKIDNON
51. **CARREON, MARLON** SAN FERNANDO, LA UNION
52. **CASISON, LETY** SAN FERNANDO, LA UNION
53. **CASOLITA, REYNALDD** INTRAMUROS, MANILA
54. **CASUS, GERALDINE** QUEZON CITY
55. **CAZEÑAS, REYMUNDO** STA CRUZ, MANILA
56. **CHAN, RICARDO** [illegible], BULACAN
57. **CHAVEZ, [illegible]JENE** ANTIQUE
58. **CIPRIANO, LEO** CALOOCAN CITY
59. **CO[illegible]** [illegible]
60. [illegible] PARAÑAQUE CITY
61. **COÑA, AMELITA** NORTHERN SAMAR
62. **CREDO, LEO PAUL** DUMAGUETE CITY
63. **CRUZ, DINO BENIDICTO** SAMPALOC, MANILA
64. **CRUZ, EDUARDO** SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA
65. **CRUZ, LEONOILA** MARIKINA CITY
66. **CRUZ, RONNIE** SAN FERNANDO, PAMPANGA
67. **CUATRIZ, ZAREN** CAINTA, RIZAL
68. **CUEBILLAS, NICO JOSE** ALBAY
69. **CUENTA, CAROLINE CELESTIAL** CAINTA, RIZAL
70. **CUYA, JENIFER** BACOLOD CITY, NEG. OCCIDENTAL
71. **DAQUIONG, CANDY** TUGUEGARAO
72. **DAVID, MARIA HYACINTH** MARIKINA CITY
73. **DE BELEN-CASALLA, ABELINO** LAS PIÑAS CITY
74. **DE GUZMAN, RAYMUNDO** SANTIAGO
75. **DE JESUS, MARIE ANN** MAKATI CITY
76. **DEL ROSARIO, ROSSANA** MALATE, MANILA
77. **DELA CRUZ, MARY ANN** SAMPALOC, MANILA
78. **DELA CRUZ, WILLY** QUEZON
79. **DELA TRINIDAD, LYDIA** QUEZON CITY
80. **DUMAGUIN, LOVE** SAN FERNANDO, LA UNION
81. **ELIZARDE, JOSEPH** PACO, MANILA
82. **ELLEAZAR, JUNE** LAGUNA
83. **ESCALONA, FELICITAS** BATAAN
84. **ESCOBAÑEZ, ROMEO** ANTIPOLO CITY
85. **ESPINA, BENJIE** QUEZON CITY
86. **ESPINO, LUISA** BACOLOD CITY, NEG. OCCIDENTAL
87. **ESTANO, BENNY** MISAMIS ORIENTAL
88. **EVANGELISTA, [illegible]** ANTIPOLO CITY
89. [illegible]
90. [illegible]
91. **FRANCISCO, ERNESTO** TONDO, MANILA
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94. **GARBO, CELESTINO** CALOOCAN CITY
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105. **HONEZ, MARILYN** DAVAO
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111. **LANUZA, DENNIS** BATANGAS CITY
112. **LEONES, IRENEO** BATANGAS CITY
113. **LIGUTAN, KAREN GO** ALEYTE
114. **MAGYANI, ANGELINA** QUEZON CITY
115. **MAKA-ASIIY, CHARCITA** SAN PEDRO, LAGUNA
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117. **MANALILI, RENATO** VALENZUELA CITY
118. **MANALO JR., PRICILITO** SAMPALOC, MANILA
119. **[illegible], EMERSON** MARIKINA CITY
120. **[illegible], HERCULES** CALOOCAN CITY
121. [illegible]
122. **MATUNDAN, BONIFACIO** MUNTINLUPA CITY
123. **MAULLON, MALACHI** MARIKINA CITY
124. **MESIAS, ANGELITA** NEGROS OCCIDENTAL
125. **MONTEBO, LANIE** ALBAY
126. **MONTEVIRGEN, EDGARDO** TONDO, MANILA
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128. **MUÑOZ, ANN** ILOILO CITY
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130. **OBLIGACION, JESSIE** CAMARINES NORTE
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136. **PABAYO JR., DIVINO REY** MAKATI CITY
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178. **SY, CONCHITA** ILOILO CITY
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183. **TIU, JUVY** CALOOCAN CITY
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Probe on dredging projects requested

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

ANGELES CITY—Mayor Carmelo Lazatin asked President Macapagal-Arroyo on Tuesday to call for a "high level investigation" on the P77.08 million worth of desilting and dredging projects supposedly implemented here through the recovered funds of the defunct Mount Pinatubo Commission.

Lazatin made the request on the heels of INQUIRER reports on the controversial P563 million released by the Department of Budget and Management for such projects.

The DBM supervised the finances first of the MPC Task Force and then the Pinatubo project management office that Ms Macapagal formed under the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council to complete the unfinished tasks of the MPC.

The letter was also sent to Renato Diaz, presidential assistant for Northern Luzon.

"We are not aware of such projects here in our city and contrary to published reports, our city government was never consulted (about) any of the desilting projects using the P77.08 million said to have been implemented in Angeles City," Lazatin said in the letter.

He said he made the request as an "avid supporter" of the President's campaign against "misuse of government funds" and as the DPWH informed him last week that there were no funds for the emergency repair and fortification of threatened riverbanks.

Last June, the Office of the Ombudsman cleared Lazatin, a former Pampanga representative, in a graft case involving funds for Mt. Pinatubo victims.

Documents obtained by the Inquirer showed that the Angeles sub-district office of the Department of Public Works and Highways received checks worth P18.9 million on Oct. 1, 2001; P17.896 million on Dec. 12, 2001; P9.723 million on March 12, 2002; P11.893 million on March 22, 2002; P9.676 million on May 21, 2002; and P8.988 million on June 4, 2002.

The Angeles sub-district received the second largest share of the fund although the city was less prone to floods.

"(But) our initial investigations could not establish any such projects undertaken from the said funds," Lazatin said.

Pampanga Rep. Francis Nepomuceno said his office received P50 million. He said his office "changed" the projects and instead carried out slope protection works along Barangay Sta. Teresita, Pandan Bridge in Angeles City and Quitangil River in Mabalacat.

On record, half of the more than P1-billion MPC recovered funds went to desilting and dredging projects, the INQUIRER found out from documents establishing the trend and priority in fund allocation.

Hanging judge reverses self

CABANATUAN CITY—A local judge, who has earned a reputation in the province as a "hanging judge," reversed his decision that imposed the death penalty on a 43-year-old man charged with rape.

Judge Feliciano Buenaventura meted out the death penalty to the man, a native of Llanera, Nueva Ecija, on Jan. 6, 1999 for allegedly raping his 13-year-old daughter on March 15, 1998.

Buenaventura, the presiding judge of the regional trial court for heinous crimes here, said he acquitted the man after his lawyer presented new evidence that showed he was insane when he committed the crime.

In the new evidence, a doctor testified that the man was diagnosed as suffering from "diagnostic organic mental disorder" when he consulted him in March and May 1994. Another psychiatrist at the National Center for Mental Health (NCMH) also told the court that the man was "suffering from organic mental disorder due to an injury or disease of the brain."

The defense presented another psychiatrist who conducted several tests on the man for 14 months and testified that "he was assessed to be insane or psychotic before, during and after the commission of the alleged crime."

The man, who was committed in the NCMH on April 27, 2000 but was returned here for the re-trial, said he did not remember anything about the rape incident.

Buenaventura, in his decision on July 25, pointed out that under Article 12 of the Revised Penal Code "an imbecile or an insane person is exempt from criminal liability, unless the latter has acted during a lucid interval."

In acquitting the man, Buenaventura directed his relatives "to continue the intake of the medicine prescribed to the accused and that he be regularly brought to the hospital for follow-up to maintain his improved condition and prevent relapse."

"I did what I have to legally do in the light of the new evidence presented," said Buenaventura, who has imposed the death penalty on at least 10 people. *Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Bomb blast mars Cotabato town anniversary

COTABATO CITY—A bomb explosion marred the anniversary celebration of M'lang, Cotabato on Monday.

The explosion came shortly after a 60 mm mortar shell was found near a school here.

The Indigenous Peoples Federal Army (IPFA), which was blamed for a series of explosion in Central Mindanao and Metro Manila this year, claimed responsibility for the bombing.

The blast, which occurred just outside the jampacked town gymnasium where the search for the Munting Mutya ng M'lang was being held, forced town officials to call off some activities although it failed to inflict injuries.

Police authorities said they found leaflets near the site of the blast, which indicated that the IPFA was behind it.

The leaflet also warned of more explosions as it blamed Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Pinol for the problem besetting the indigenous peoples.

The executive could not be reached for comment.

Police Insp. Jimmy Napat, M'lang police chief, said the explosion destroyed a parked Isuzu pick-up vehicle owned by provincial board member George Tejada.

Bomb experts recovered a timing device and a trigger mechanism with battery at the explosion site.

Mayor Luigi Cuerpo said the bomb attack was part of a destabilization plot by lawless groups.

"We are on heightened alert, (but) our activities will continue," he later told Radio dxND in Kidapawan City.

Brig. Gen. Generoso Senga, 6th Infantry Division chief, has alerted the Army's 39th Infantry Battalion and directed all battalion commanders to exert extra efforts to thwart bomb attacks in the province.

At the Notre Dame of Cotabato for Girls here, bomb experts detonated a live 60 mm mortar shell, which was abandoned at around 2 p.m. on Monday.

Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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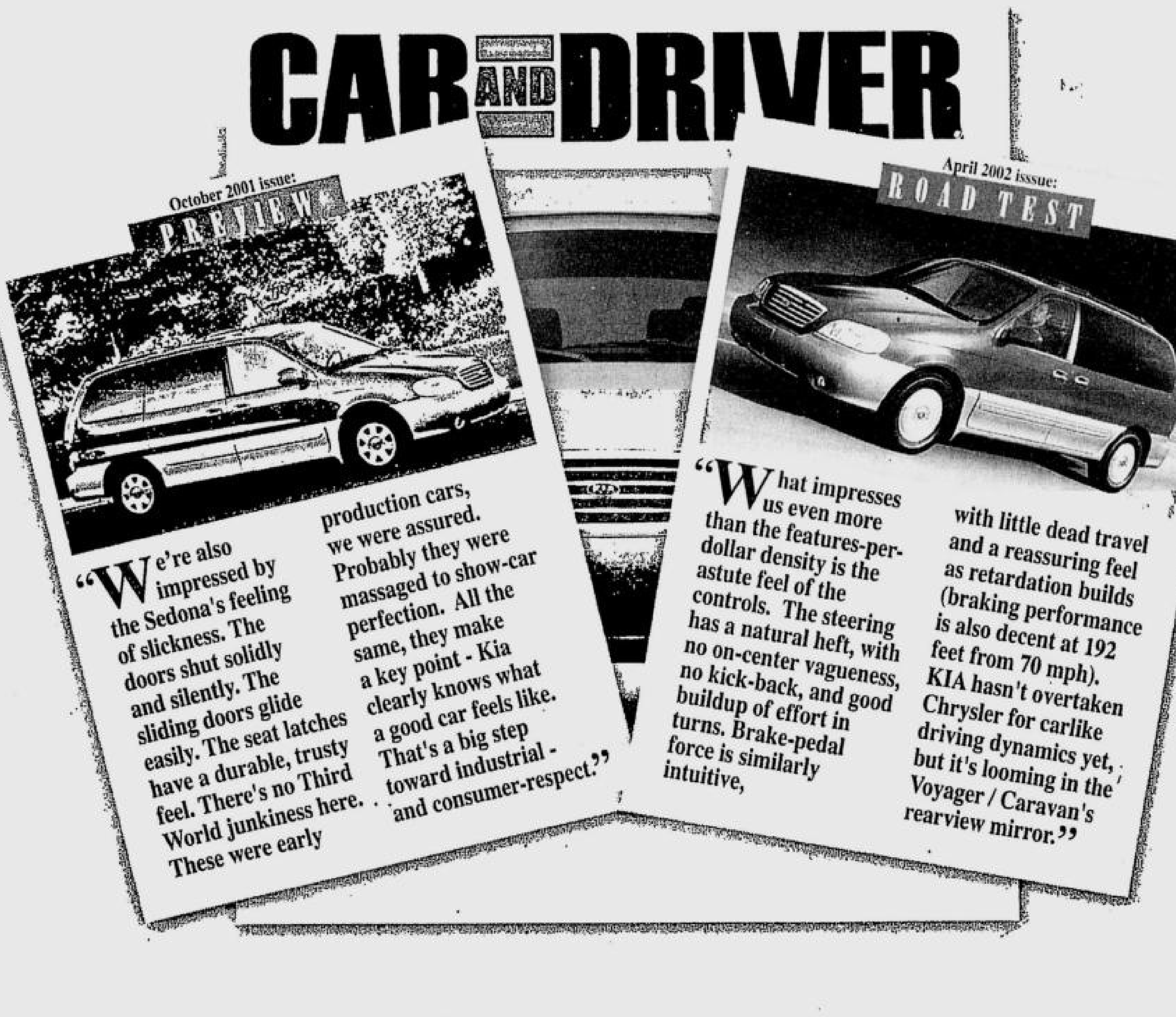

CAR AND DRIVER

October 2001 issue: PREVIEW

"We're also impressed by the Sedona's feeling of slickness. The doors shut solidly and silently. The sliding doors glide easily. The seat latches have a durable, trusty feel. There's no Third World junkiness here. These were early production cars, we were assured. Probably they were massaged to show-car perfection. All the same, they make a key point - Kia clearly knows what a good car feels like. That's a big step toward industrial - and consumer-respect."

April 2002 isssue: ROAD TEST

"What impresses us even more than the features-per-dollar density is the astute feel of the controls. The steering has a natural heft, with no on-center vagueness, no kick-back, and good buildup of effort in turns. Brake-pedal force is similarly intuitive, with little dead travel and a reassuring feel as retardation builds (braking performance is also decent at 192 feet from 70 mph). KIA hasn't overtaken Chrysler for carlike driving dynamics yet, but it's looming in the Voyager / Caravan's rearview mirror."

CAR and DRIVER featured the KIA SEDONA in two issues, and found it impressive. It's not surprising, because KIA designed and built the SEDONA to provide lasting value, backing it up with the longest product warranty* as proof of its confidence in build quality and performance.

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Chevrolet Venture	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★
Ford Econoline	★★★★	★★★★	not tested	not tested
Chrysler Town/Country	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
Dodge Caravan	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★

*available as public information from http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/ncap

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NDF calls on Comelec to charge rebel group

BACOLOD CITY—Former priest Frank Fernandez, head of the National Democratic Front in Negros Island, yesterday called on the Commission on Elections to file charges against the Revolutionary Proletarian Army (RPA) for allegedly committing various crimes, including bringing firearms to Barangay Winaswasan, Calatrava, during the July 15 synchronized community elections.

He also called on the Comelec and Senior Supt. Geary Barias, Negros Occidental police director, to file charges against several government officials for the alleged distribution of money during the synchronized barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections.

Fernandez claimed the RPA used "pressure tactics" to ensure that the candidates of the two local parties—the United Negros Alliance (UNA) and the National People's Coalition (NPC)—will win in the July 15 elections, in prepafation for the 2004 polls.

Fernandez challenged the Comelec and Barias to file charges against Negros Occidental Gov. Joseph Maranon for allegedly distributing P10,000 in each barangay to help finance the candidates he backed in the last elections.

Maranon yesterday denied the allegation. "The statement is a lie and not worth answering," the governor quipped when sought for comment.

In the same statement, Fernandez lauded the New People's Army for the successful raid of what he called the "Civilian Armed Forces Geographic Unit-Revolutionary Proletarian Army" base in Barangay Biao, Binalbagan that resulted in the seizure of 10 high powered firearms on July 22.

Fernandez insisted that RPA men have become part of a special paramilitary unit of the 303rd Brigade of the Philippine Army based in the area.

He said Arturo Tabara of the RPA-ABB, 303rd Brigade commander Col. Alphonsus Crucero, Barias and Maranon should not continue to deceive themselves that the RPA is not part of the AFP.

"These officials should read and listen to reports of the independent media about the 'criminal activities' of the RPA against innocent civilians in the countryside," he said.

Fernandez also alleged that since 1996, the RPA has been used for the interest of big businessmen and landlords in the province.

He also called on the public to speak out against the government's tolerance of what he called the criminal activities of the RPA.

The RPA-ABB (Alex Boncayao Brigade) broke off from the mainstream Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front (CPP-NPA-NDF) in 1992 because of ideological differences.

In Baguio City, Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos asked poll officials to explain why four men were allowed to have a drinking party inside the Comelec compound here during the elections on July 15 despite the imposition of the liquor ban.

In his response to Abalos' order, lawyer Armando Velasco, Comelec Cordillera chair, admitted that the four men are indeed employees of the Comelec but "they are from the region, not from our central office."

Aside from Abalos, Comelec resident ombudsman David Corpuz also asked Velasco to investigate the alleged violation.

Abalos' memorandum, issued on July 19, was addressed to Commissioner Florentino Tuason, the Comelec commissioner in charge of Northern Luzon.

He asked Tuason to "investigate the incident and cause the imposition of appropriate sanctions and filing of necessary charges if warranted." *Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau; Jovelyn Reyes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern Luzon and Eastern Visayas will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorm. Light to moderate winds blowing from the North and Northwest will prevail over Luzon and coming from the Southwest over the rest of the country.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32°	Lo 24°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Hi 24°	Lo 17°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30°	Lo 26°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31°	Lo 25°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32°	Lo 24°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31°	Lo 22°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30°	Lo 26°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31°	Lo 23°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31°	Lo 24°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31°	Lo 26°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32°	Lo 25°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30°	Lo 26°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31°	Lo 25°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32°	Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32°	Lo 23°
Davao	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32°	Lo 25°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/07/31/02

ROUNDUP

Judge upholds mayor

MALOLOS, Bulacan—A judge here upheld the victory of Mayor Jaime Viceo Jr. of San Rafael town after ruling that he won in the 2001 local elections over former Bulacan Rep. Ricardo Silverio. Judge Danilo Manalastas, in a decision issued on Friday, said a recount showed that Viceo got 14,879 votes while Silverio, who filed the protest after losing to Viceo, got 13,745 votes. In 1999, Viceo was unseated as mayor after another judge ruled that Silverio's wife, Lorna, won in the 1998 local elections.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Bataan coastal protection

BALANGA CITY—The provincial government and a local foundation launched on Wednesday the Bataan Coastal Strategy Program to protect and manage the coastal resources of Bataan and Manila Bay. Local officials and members of the Bataan Coastal Care Foundation Inc. said they are coordinating with private and non-government groups to raise funds for the project. They said the project would involve public participation to drum up awareness on environmental care.

Greg Refraccion, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Cebu-Legazpi flight

LEGASPI CITY—The Sea Air launched its inaugural flight between Cebu and this city on Monday. Jose Estevez Jr., Albay Chamber of Commerce and Industry chair, said this is the result of their talks with the Cebu Chamber of Commerce (CCCI), and Legazpi City Mayor Noel Rosal. Estevez said it is part of a mutual agreement with the CCCI to further enhance business and chamber relationships between the two cities. With its 19-seater German aircraft, Sea Air's Dornier Let 19 will initially fly twice a week from the Legazpi airport to Mactan, Cebu and vice versa.

Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Malampaya campaign

CORON, Palawan—The Department of Energy and the local governments of Busuanga, Culion and Linapacan towns have launched an information and education campaign on the exclusion and safety zones of the Malampaya Deep Water-to-Gas Project. The zones were established by Presidential Proclamation No. 72 signed by President Macapagal-Arroyo last July 10. The exclusion zone, where fishing vessels and other ships are banned entry without permission, and where aircrafts are not allowed to fly below 500 meters from the platform and Catenary Anchored Leg Mooring (Calm) buoy, covers 34,417 hectares. Three watercrafts were commissioned by Shell Philippines, to secure the zones.

Geraldford P. Ticke, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Gen. Ola's town fest

GUINOBATAN, Albay—The hometown of the late Gen. Simeon Ola in the Third District of Albay, has come up with its own town fiesta named 'Pagsu'wak. (blossoming)' to be held on August 1 to 15. Among the fiesta's highlights are an agro-industrial fair, art exhibit, medical mission, stage presentation, civic-military parade, and street presentation. The festival is being held in thanksgiving for the bountiful harvest in Guinobatan.

Michael B. Jaucian, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Legazpi with a 'z'

LEGAZPI CITY—The Sangguniang Panlunsod of Legazpi has passed a resolution reiterating the use of the correct spelling of the name 'Legazpi' in all official communications and other written documents. The city council noted that official communications from some agencies and other written documents fail to use the correct and proper spelling of the word by placing the letter 's' instead of letter 'z.' Mayor Noel Rosal has approved the resolution.

Michael B. Jaucian, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Rebels fail to burn tower

ATIMONAN, Quezon—Chief Insp. Elizardo Seng, Atimonan police station chief, said New People's Army rebels failed to burn and topple the Globe relay transmission tower in Barangay Tinandog here on Monday because of the timely arrival of police and soldiers. Only the guardhouse and the switch room were damaged, Seng said. A can of combustible that was supposed to start the fire failed to ignite, according to him. The security guards, identified as Rhoderick Rodriguez and Renato Tandas, were both divested of their .38-caliber service firearms and Motorola handheld radios.

Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

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Started in 1994 by the Rotary Club of Makati-Metro, the Search for The Outstanding Philippine Soldiers (TOPS) represents the private sector's appreciation of the role that the Filipino soldier plays in the life of our nation. In 1998, the Metrobank Foundation lent its support to the project as part of its own Excellence Awards Program, which aims to promote a culture of excellence among members of key social sectors including the police, the military, the judiciary and the media.

Cognizant of the exemplary achievements of our men and women in uniform, TOPS rightfully honors the dedication, integrity and professionalism of the Filipino soldier, holding up his example not just for the rest of his peers in the armed forces, but for others in the community to emulate and be proud of.

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Philippine Army, Enlisted Personnel Level

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Philippine Army, Officer Level

TECHNICAL SERGEANT ELIJURRY L. LARUPAY
Philippine Navy, Enlisted Personnel Level
(Marines)

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STAFF SERGEANT JOHN CHRISTOPHER C. LEMONCITO
Philippine Air Force, Enlisted Personnel Level

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LIEUTENANT COLONEL ELIGIO D.V. RAMOS
Philippine Air Force, Officer Level

MASTER SERGEANT JOSE S. UYEG
Philippine Army, Enlisted Personnel Level

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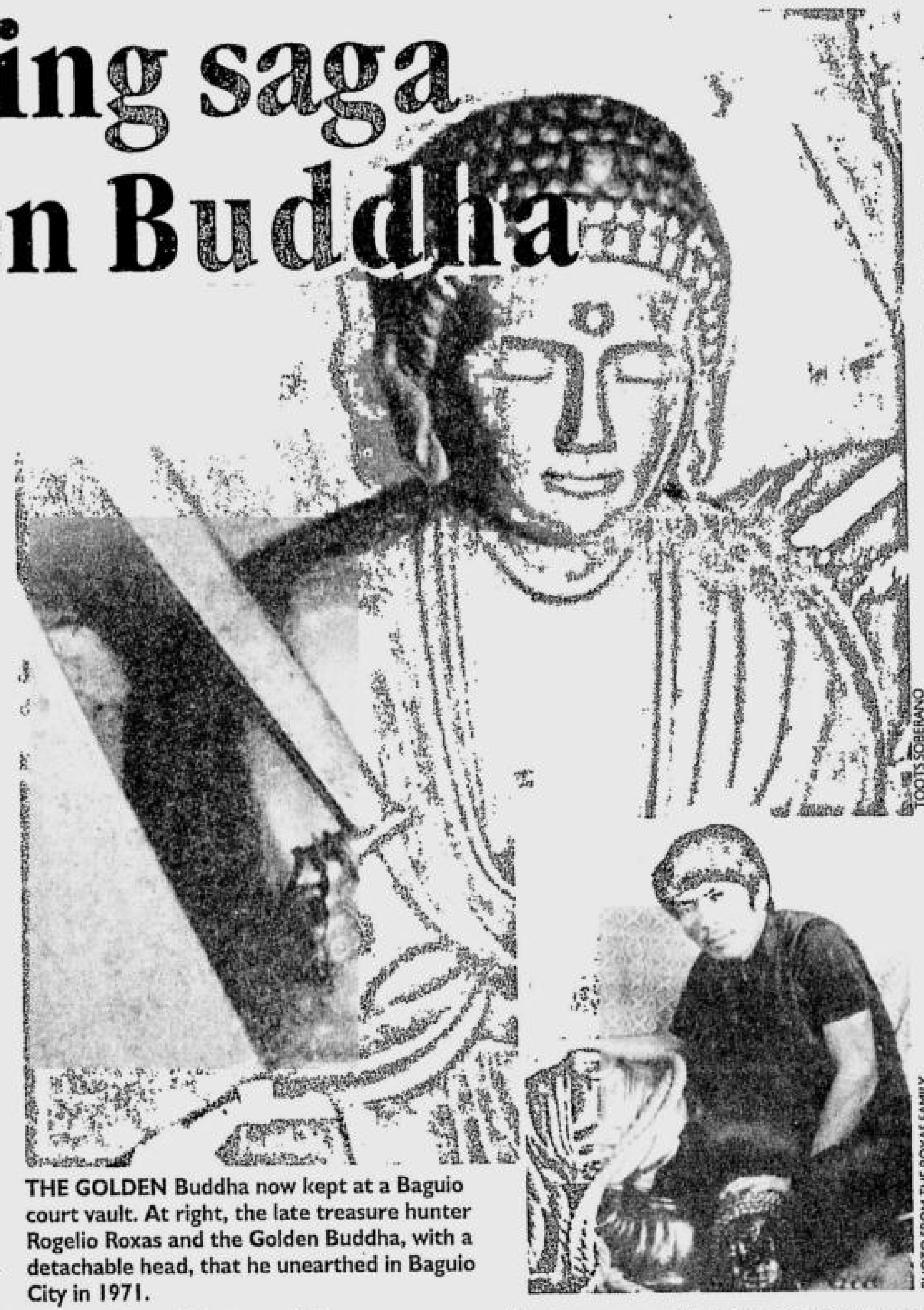
INQUIRER Northern Luzon
Editor Jun Bandayrel Bureau Chief Rolando B. Fernandez

The continuing saga of the Golden Buddha

By Delmar Cariño
Baguio City



TOOTS SOBERANO

PHOTO FROM THE ROXAS FAMILY

THE GOLDEN Buddha now kept at a Baguio court vault. At right, the late treasure hunter Rogelio Roxas and the Golden Buddha, with a detachable head, that he unearthed in Baguio City in 1971.

THE BRONZE-plated Golden Buddha that stirred a controversy against the Marcoses has been reduced to a mere scrap of rusty evidence at the steel vault of Baguio City's Justice Hall.

But its fading color has not ended its story.

Not for the heirs of treasure hunter Rogelio Roxas who, until now, continue to claim that the statue is a replica of the Golden Buddha that was seized from them 31 years ago by military men sent by the late President Ferdinand Marcos.

Quietly, the Roxases are waging a legal war abroad against the Marcos estate, hoping that justice will soon spell for them a fortune in terms of millions of dollars as award "for having been unlawfully deprived of the Golden Buddha."

A recent communication obtained by the INQUIRER showed that the Magana, Cathcart and MacCarthy Law Office in San Francisco, California, continues to take the cudgels for the Roxases in at least three cases involving the Golden Buddha.

Handled by lead lawyer Daniel Cathcart, the main case involves the $22 billion in damages awarded by the Hawaii First District Court to the Roxases against the Marcos estate in July 1996.

The court then sustained the claim that Marcos seized the real Golden Buddha from Rogelio Roxas in his house at Aurora Hill in Baguio City on April 5, 1971.

In November 1998, however, the Hawaii Supreme Court dismissed the award, considered the biggest in civil litigation history, after finding that the evidence against Marcos was "too speculative to support Roxas' claim of discovery of the fabled statue and its seizure from him."

Legal remedies

Cathcart's law firm though is exhausting all legal remedies to have the decision restored.

The two other cases are Merill Lynch vs Arelma and Calimlim vs Golden Buddha Corp. (GBC).

The first case is believed to be the Roxases' claim for a share of the $1.9 billion in damages awarded by Hawaii Judge Manuel Real in 1991 to more than 10,000 human rights victims of the Marcos regime.

The second case is about the claim for compensation from the GBC of former Judge Bernabe Calimlim Jr. of Malasiqui, Pangasinan, for his alleged efforts in helping Rogelio Roxas devise means on how to seek relief against Marcos while staying in US soil.

The GBC was put up in 1986 by Rogelio Roxas, his relative Felix Dacanay and unnamed American partners following the Marcoses' departure from the country after being ousted from power by the Edsa Revolution.

Sources told the INQUIRER that last month, Rogelio's younger brother, Danilo, went to California to testify and debunk Calimlim's claim, buoying Cathcart's confidence that Judge Judith Chirlin, who is handling the case, would dismiss the suit.

Contacted by the INQUIRER, Danilo Roxas confirmed he went to the United States.

Cathcart is also in the thick of wrangling with Philippine government lawyers an inter-pleader before the Ninth Circuit Court of the Court of Appeals of San Francisco, California, concerning $36 million of Marcos money held in escrow.

An inter-pleader is a civil suit that aims to litigate conflicting claims or interests over money or property.

In the communication, Cathcart said the Philippine National Bank and the Presidential Commission on Good Government are contesting the inter-pleader, saying they want the case dismissed.

But Cathcart said the expected deposition of a former Marcos banker, John Louis Sunier, in Switzerland anytime soon will surely bolster their bid in the case.

He admitted though that he is not sure when the cases will end. "The end of litigation depends on the cases," he told the Roxas heirs.

In the communication, Cathcart said he is praying that the State Court of Hawaii will raise the Roxas award from $13 million to $75 million which, he said, will represent the Golden Buddha's worth and 17 gold bars seized with it.

Paydirt

In waiting are Rogelio Roxas' heirs who stand to hit paydirt once the cases are decided in their favor—sons Henry and Gervic; Rosavilla, Rogelio's second wife, and their three children; brothers Danilo and Rey; and sisters Gloria, Delia and Maria.

Obviously absent as a beneficiary is eldest brother Jose, a locksmith based in Olongapo City, who proclaimed that brother Rogelio had never found a Golden Buddha. It was Jose who filed in 1995 the petition before the Regional Trial Court of Baguio City that revived the controversy of the bronze-plated statue.

Judge Antonio Reyes declared in 1997 that no Golden Buddha existed, saying the myth of the gold statue was a product of unscrupulous minds who wanted to partake of the Marcos wealth.

He then ordered the release of the statue to Henry, Gervic and uncle Jose "in trust for the estate of Rogelio."

Before Reyes issued his decision, several parties have expressed interest over the statue.

The government, through the Solicitor General, wanted the statue to remain in court custody because it said its release might jeopardize government efforts to recover millions of unpaid Marcos taxes.

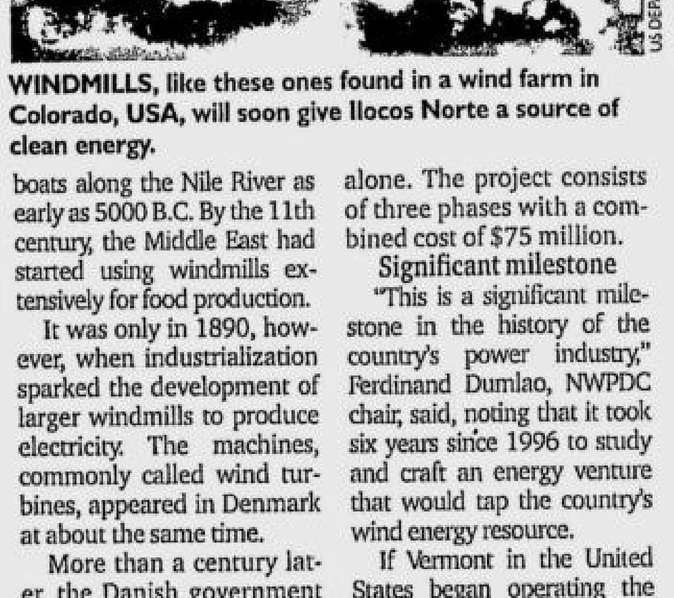
Albert Umali, president of the Treasure Hunters Association of the Philippines, asked that the statue be given to him based on a partnership agreement he forged with Rogelio that gave him the right to claim the statue.

Meanwhile, Uncle Jose, Henry and Gervic also wanted the Buddha as a memento of Rogelio's treasure hunting activities.

Surprisingly, none of them appealed Reyes' decision.

Ilocos Norte taps wind to solve power woes

By Cristina Arzadon
Bangui, Ilocos Norte



US DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY WEBSITE

WINDMILLS, like these ones found in a wind farm in Colorado, USA, will soon give Ilocos Norte a source of clean energy.

ILOCOS Norte could be the first to kiss its power problems goodbye. More appropriately, consumers could expect to blow away frequent power outages and higher electricity rates, thanks to the excellent wind resource of the well-exposed coastal areas in Northern Luzon.

Early next year, the Metro Manila-based Northwind Power Development Corp. (NWPDC) will start setting up the country's first wind power plant, dubbed "clean energy," at the windswept town of Bangui, Ilocos Norte. The wind farm will begin its commercial operation by 2004.

"More than the economic benefits, we need to put in a lot of this project to protect the environment," said Danish engineer Niels Jacobsen, NWPDC president. Jacobsen has been involved in the operations of the country's other power plants for nine years.

The government and local environmental groups have been promoting the use of renewable energy resources to minimize dependence on imported energy and reduce pollution caused by traditional energy sources.

From Persia and the Middle East in the 10th century and across Europe and the Americas in the late 19th century, people had been harnessing wind energy for specific purposes.

The website of the United States' Department of Energy noted that wind energy was first used to propel boats along the Nile River as early as 5000 B.C. By the 11th century, the Middle East had started using windmills extensively for food production.

It was only in 1890, however, when industrialization sparked the development of larger windmills to produce electricity. The machines, commonly called wind turbines, appeared in Denmark at about the same time.

More than a century later, the Danish government is bringing into the country the same wind turbine technology to produce wind-powered electricity.

The NWPDC secured a loan from Danida, a government lending institution in Denmark, to shore up the wind farm's financial requirement of $23 million for the first phase alone. The project consists of three phases with a combined cost of $75 million.

Significant milestone

"This is a significant milestone in the history of the country's power industry," Ferdinand Dumlao, NWPDC chair, said, noting that it took six years since 1996 to study and craft an energy venture that would tap the country's wind energy resource.

If Vermont in the United States began operating the largest wind turbine on a hilltop known as Grandpa's Knob in 1941, the Philippines will start giving home to the first wind farm off Bangui Bay facing the South China Sea.

The Philippine National Oil Co. (PNOC) is developing another wind farm in the villages of Saoit and Pagali in nearby Burgos town.

The Bangui Bay wind farm will use 30 units, 60-meter high Vestas wind turbines, and arranged in a single row stretching on about a 3-km shoreline facing the South China Sea.

The wind at Bangui coast is blowing at a speed of 7 meters per second (mps). The wind plant will synchronize operations with the National Power Corp. grid to complement Napocor's power supply to the local electric utility.

On July 19, the NWPDC sealed the 25.5-megawatt wind power project-sale agreement with the Ilocos Norte Electric Cooperative (Inec). The plant can produce up to 60-MW power if the remaining two phases are completed.

The NWPDC will operate and maintain the wind power plant and deliver at least 52,560-megawatt hour (equivalent to 7 MW) to Inec every year for 20 years. The additional wind energy is about a third of the province's total power requirement of 26 MW.

"Consumers here are most affected during power outages as the power source comes all the way from Bauang, La Union. Whenever the transmission line goes wrong, Ilocos Norte and Ilocos Sur are most affected. With the windmill plant, we can improve on the dependability, reliability and quality of power," said Romillas Pascual, Inec general manager.

"Our only fear is when there is not enough wind to drive the wind turbines, the windmills will not be able to generate power. Under Napocor, we can draw power any time."

He said the NWPDC has to produce an alternative power source or back up power to correct the problem when it arises.

Based on the energy sales agreement, Inec will buy power from the NWPDC at 7 percent lower than the prevailing Napocor rates. The power cooperative, however, will continue buying its remaining energy demand from Napocor.

The power venture could not have come at a perfect time when power woes continue to hound the country's power industry.

If project schedules are met, Ilocos Norte will have the distinction of using the first fossil fuel-free energy source in the Philippines.

The project, according to Dumlao, has been endorsed by Energy Secretary Vincent Perez as part of the Department of Energy's medium term development plan for energy projects.

"Since we are blessed with this natural wind resource, all the resource analyses point to the viability of this project," he said.

Dumlao, along with NWPDC counterparts, had convinced Inec officials that its 7-percent discounted energy rate would generate more benefits to the projected initial P2 million in annual payment savings that the cooperative will gain from buying wind ene

A wind mapping study, conducted by the United States National Renewable Energy Laboratory, identified other areas across the country where 10,000 square kilometers of windy land have been estimated to exist with good-to-excellent wind resource potential.

Ilocos Norte is one of the three areas in Luzon and of nine other islands and inner corridors across the country that can produce up to 70,000 MW of power.

The other wind-rich islands include Batanes and Babuyan Islands north of Luzon and the higher interior terrain of Mindoro, Samar, Leyte, Panay, Negros, Cebu, Palawan and eastern Mindanao.

A legacy of Filipino revolution

By Frank Cimatu
Batac, Ilocos Norte

THE EXPLOITS of Fr. Gregorio Labayan Aglipay and his amulet are common tales in Batac, Ilocos Norte. The stories go that Aglipay would ride his white horse in the rain and come out with his cassock dry and spotless. He dodged bullets and could become invisible to the enemies.

Because he was a son of Ilocano peasants, Aglipay disguised himself as a farmer tending his rice farm while the Americans searched for him. He was also said to be an expert in *arnis* (a Filipino martial art using rattan sticks).

Aglipay is a homegrown hero. His enemies, the American troops, acknowledged Aglipay's valor in 1901. Twice, his horse was shot and he escaped unharmed. Three times his horse was able to outdistance pursuing soldiers and twice he was wounded in an ambush and still escaped.

From 1900 to 1902, Aglipay and his army were able to prevent the so-called American "pacification" of the towns of Badoc, Paoay and Batac.

An American general even said Aglipay was better "as a soldier than a bishop."

But this is farther from the truth. Aglipay is also regarded as the Martin Luther of the Philippines for establishing the Iglesia Filipina Independiente or the Philippine Independent Church, which celebrates its centenary on Aug. 3.

The celebrations at the Quirino Grandstand in Manila are expected to draw 200,000 of the faithful from across the nation and the United States (the Visayas and Mindanao will have separate celebrations).

Break from Vatican

On Aug. 3, 1902 the Union Obrera Democratica, a confederation of 10 labor organizations headed by Isabelo de los Reyes, formalized the IFI's break from the Vatican and designated Aglipay as the IFI's Obispo Maximo (supreme bishop).

History professor Raymond Rovillos of the University of the Philippines College Baguio, who made extensive studies on the 1896 Revolution in Northern Luzon, said Aglipay was at first reluctant to leave the Catholic Church and exhausted all means to dialogue with Vatican.

"He wanted an independent church but within the Catholic Church hierarchy. Instead, he was excommunicated," Rovillos said.

He said Aglipay and the IFI's role in the country's quest for independence is more on his being a revolutionary than theological or ecclesiastical.

"It was always integral to the political revolution," Rovillos said of the IFI.

Aglipay, who is a cousin of Ilocano revolutionary Artemio Ricarte, founded the Liwanag branch of the Katipunan in Victoria, Tarlac. He also attended the Malolos Congress and eventually became the ecclesiastical governor of Nueva Segovia (Ilocos) in 1899.

The late historian William Henry Scott said it was Aglipay, being a priest, who drove the Ilocanos to become the so-called "bolomen," fighting the well-armed Americans only with their *bolos*.

Scott said the Ilocanos fought the Americans with suicidal frenzy but the resistance had been sustained because of good guerrilla tactics from Aglipay and Gen. Manuel Tinio.

Rovillos said it was not unusual for a priest to head the revolution.

"Ironically, while our national heroes were fighting the frailocracy, it was the Filipino and Philippine-born fathers who sowed the seeds of the national revolution," he said.

When the Katipunan was waning in the Tagalog provinces in 1899, it was the Ilocanos who persevered in fighting the Americans. In fact, it was through the Ilocanos that Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo was able to escape through the Cordillera.

It was in Vigan, Ilocos Sur, in 1899 when Aglipay said the newly formed Philippine government reminded Filipinos that the "diffusion of light among all social classes is absolutely essential, inasmuch as the day has happily dawned when our beloved country is governing itself."

Even now at the time of the Balikatan war exercises with American forces, the IFI remains vigilant in protecting the independence of the country.

Bishop Godofredo David, IFI church secretary and historian, said the IFI is "incarnating our heritage."

"We remain God-fearing and patriotic. We still seek for a militant church and go on with our prophetic militancy. We have to fight for the ideals which our country is slowly forgetting," David said.

Historian Teodoro Agoncillo said the IFI is "the only living and tangible result of the 1896 revolution."

"We are a surviving legacy of the (Philippine) Revolution," David said. "And we expect to go on."

SC administrator denies organizing golf tourney for judiciary

By Donna S. Cueto

THE SUPREME Court administrator who was said to be spearheading a golf tournament supposedly sponsored by some law firms denied that he was in any way involved in the event, and claimed that the complaints about him that have reached the Supreme Court were "false and misleading."

Justice Presbiterio J. Velasco Jr. said it was the Philippine Judges Foundation Inc., not he, that was organizing the golf tournament to "raise funds for the health care benefits of retired and active members of the judiciary."

PJFI, a private nonstock and non-profit corporation composed of retired justices and judges, is headed by former Chief Justice Andres R. Narvasa and retired Court of Appeals Justice Mariano M. Umali.

Sponsorship

He explained that only retired justices and judges who are members of the PJFI are assigned to "procure sponsorships to avoid compromising the independence and impartiality of the judiciary."

"Thus the fears that members of the judiciary are engaging in a golf tournament to be sponsored by persons or entities that may have cases or official transactions with the courts have no bearing at all," Velasco said in a statement.

Velasco clarified that the PJFI, which is composed of retired justices and judges, was different from the Philippine Judges Association which counts as its members active judges in the regional trial court.

"The PJA has absolutely nothing to do with the tournament," Velasco said.

He said he was not in any way connected to the PJFI. While he was invited to be one of its advisers, he said he declined to accept the nomination "precisely because of delicadeza."

'Misleading'

The controversy was sparked by a letter written by reader Carmelo J. Aquino that appeared in the INQUIRER on July 18. The letter writer accused Velasco of "spearheading" the golf tournament for the PJFI and of soliciting the sponsorship of such big law firms as SGV, Accra and Siguion Reyna and Romulo Mabanta.

Velasco said Aquino's claims were "false and misleading."

The letter had caught the attention of Acting Supreme Court Chief Justice Josue N. Bellosillo who said he would order the scrapping of the golf tournament "if it was true that it was being financed or to be financed out of solicitations from law firms, business organizations and businessmen."

Bellosillo has yet to issue a direct order scrapping the tournament. He was said to be just cautioning the judges from pursuing the golf tournament "in light of negative public perception."

The tournament is to be held at the Wack Wack Golf Club on Sept. 27.

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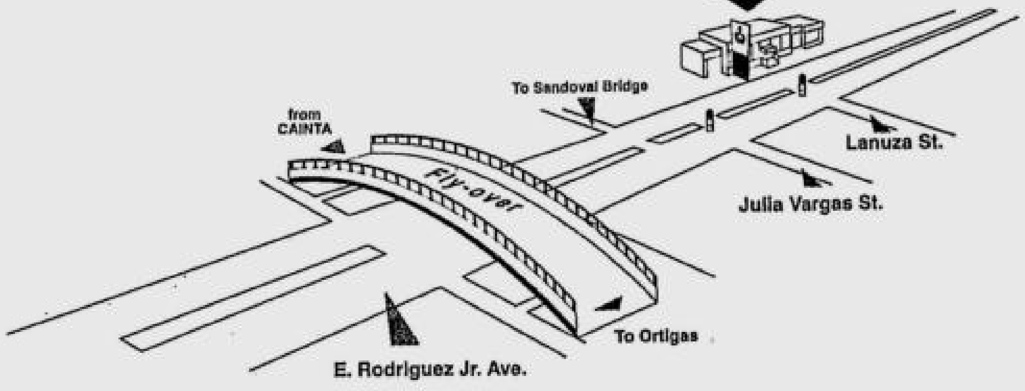

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SAGIS
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PRESIDENT Macapagal swears in former Sen. Blas Ople as the newest member of her official family on Tuesday. EDWIN BACASMAS

YOU ARE NOT WELCOME MR. BLAS OPLE
NO TO EXTENSION BALIKATAN! NO TO MLSA
NOT WELCOME OPLE GO HOME
YANKEES GO HOME
NOT WELCOME OPLE GO HOME!

THE FIRST day in office of Foreign Secretary Blas Ople is marked by a protest rally at the DFA. ERIK ARAZAS

House wants MLSA briefing from Powell

From page A1

Secretary Powell. We expect a measure of candor and frankness (from him)," Marcos said in an interview.

She scoffed at the statement of Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye that there was no final draft yet. "Malacañang confuses me. Is there or isn't there (a final draft)? *Magtapatan na, magpakatotoo na (let's be truthful)*," she said.

Irked

Marcos said President Macapagal-Arroyo was reportedly "*naiirita*" (irked) when legislators demanded full disclosure of the proposed MLSA, which is being prepared for signing in time for Powell's visit to Manila on Aug. 2.

"With due respect to the President, I think we are well within our rights as legislators to ask (for full disclosure) because this (MLSA) impinges on the Constitution," she said.

"Questions on sovereignty are never trivial," she added.

But Ople said there was "absolutely no basing rights" for the United States under the agreement.

"There is no ground for concern that there will be basing rights (for the United States)," he told reporters after he took his oath before Ms Macapagal in Malacañang as the new foreign secretary.

Ople said Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes had given his word that the MLSA would not allow the Americans to put up in the country what could be construed as military bases.

In her speech titled "Beware the Trojan Horse," Marcos warned that under the "final draft" of the MLSA, the Philippines would become a staging ground for US anti-terrorism campaign in the region because it gave permanent basing rights to the United States.

The MLSA goes beyond the 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty between the Philippines and the United States as it allows US forces access to Philippine territory "at almost any time, under virtually all conditions, whatever the prevailing circumstances," she said.

Marcos said that based on what she said was the final draft she had obtained, the MLSA was a treaty requiring ratification by the Senate.

Senate

Ople also said that he saw no need for the Senate to ratify the MLSA because "it is just a set of guidelines . . . to facilitate logistical support between" the Philippines and the United States.

"There is no need for a new treaty or a new political tremor for this agreement. It's just an executive agreement," he said.

"It could be an improper use of the term and that's what I like to find out," he said.

San Juan Rep. Ronaldo Zamora said Marcos' concerns were valid. "It is so easy for the contracting parties to end up with basing rights because the language of the agreement is so broad," Zamora said.

Negros Occidental Rep. Jun Lozada said legislators and the public were becoming more suspicious of the MLSA because of the government's failure to disclose the document.

"The problem is they keep on denying these charges but where is the official draft? I am supposed to defend what I do not have," Lozada said.

But Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr., chair of the House defense committee, defended the MLSA. He said it was necessary to facilitate the continuing Balikatan exercises.

Pichay dismissed Marcos' warning that the Philippines could face retaliation from Asean neighbors targeted by the US anti-terrorism campaign.

"Perhaps there will be retaliation from the terrorists but not from the Asean members. These fears of permanent basing should no longer be entertained because even the United States is downsizing its armed forces," Pichay said.

Ople's briefing

In the Senate, Sen. Edgardo Angara said Ople had assured his former colleagues in the Senate that he would brief them on the MLSA and its impact on the country's national security.

Ople made the promise Monday, Ople's last day in the Senate.

"He (Ople) said he would give the Senate a briefing on the MLSA from the perspective of the executive branch and give the senators a copy," Angara said.

Angara said senators could only decide whether the MLSA was an executive agreement or a treaty after a thorough study of the document.

However, Angara said the decision to submit the MLSA to the Senate for ratification or just sign it as an executive agreement was with the executive branch.

Not disclosing the terms of the accord will not be a good decision because the Senate is an integral part of policy-making in the country, according to Angara.

"They should at least give us (senators) that courtesy," he said.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel said that while he had not read the final draft of the MLSA, he said any mention of the basing right of American troops would not be entertained.

"I would like to find out whether the bases that we are talking about are the bases that we used to have in this country," Pimentel said. ***With a report from Dona Pazzibugan***

Big cell ready for protesters

From page A1

government's no permit, no rally policy during the weekend visit of US Secretary of State Collin Powell.

"*Eh, di magpapatayo tayo ng malaking kulungan* (Then, we will build a big detention center)," PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane told Palace reporters who sought his reaction to the militant groups' threat that they would defy the policy.

"They an do their thing in authorize reas like freedom parks. They shout to their hearts' desire vided they do not impede ic and commit misdemean on other Filipinos," Ebda dded.

He the PNP would make use o leo footage in pursuing charg against those who had taken rt in illegal and unruly demonstrations.

After delivering her State of the Nation Address on July 22, President Macapagal-Arroyo said she was suspending the government's longstanding policy of maximum tolerance in dealing with protesters.

"This eans that maximum tolerable havior is expected of demon ators," Press Secretary Ignacio unye said Monday.

Successful so far

So far, the PNP has been successful in enforcing the President's directive.

In Zamboanga City, for instance he PNP averted a showdown tween 1,000 demonstrators osed to the six-month Balil n exercise and 200 support the RP-US war games aime rushing the Abu Sayyaf.

Th rcise officially ends today, a gh some US troops are staying hind. Another joint exercise i cheduled in October. *(See st on Page A1).*

The a i-Balikatan demonstrators on Tuesday were given a permit to h d their rally at a sports stadium ut they were prevented from m hing to the gates of the Southe Command headquarters w e the pro-Balikatan supporters re allowed to rally.

Authorities also stepped up security in and around the Southcom headquarters. Steel barricades blocked roads leading to the facility where American soldiers taking part in Balikatan are based.

Violence, however, broke out Monday night when the anti-US protesters arrived in Zamboanga City in a convoy of more than 30 cars and buses.

Teddy Casiño, secretary general of Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, said spikes were planted along the route of the so-called "Peace Caravan."

At least six delegates were also hurt when angry residents stoned their vehicles. They accused the protesters of supporting the Abu Sayyaf bandits who have been linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

Casiño identified the wounded delegates as Doy Martelino of Bayan Muna-Zamboanga, Kevin Castillon of the Bayan Muna-Cebu City, Floro Tabelina of Ecumenical Movement for Justice and Peace-Zamboanga del Norte, Dondon Juntilla of AnakBayan-Iligan, Amin Saludhi of the Moro Human Rights Center-Basilan and a certain Rene Marquez.

"We come in name of peace. We are united with the people of Zamboanga in condemning the terrorism and barbarity of the bandit group Abu Sayyaf," Casiño said.

But Casiño said his group was opposing any US role in the fight against the Abu Sayyaf because "American interventionism has always worked against the interest of the people."

"We do not want the exercise to expand. If it ends now, then that's it," he said.

Pro-US rally

Speakers at the pro-US rally included women from nearby Basilan island whose relatives were killed last year by the bandits.

Hermie Revillas, whose husband was beheaded by the bandits, said she was still seeking justice.

"We ask that the Balikatan be extended. It was a very big help to us," she said, adding that the exercise has given people a sense of security.

She said the bandits would return after the Americans leave.

Maj. Gen. Ernesto Carolina, head of Southcom, also dismissed the anti-US protests.

"We are not going to waste our time and let them distract us from the higher mission of protecting the people from terrorism," Carolina said.

He earlier warned Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Satur Ocampo, organizer of the anti-US protest, against marching on the military base.

"Whatever blood (is spilled) will be on his hands because of his irresponsible actions," Carolina said.

Participants at the pro-US rally also thanked the US soldiers and asked them to stay longer.

"We love America," one placard read, with others slamming the anti-US group, while a band played American pop songs.

Various victims of the Abu Sayyaf gang declared their support for the US presence.

"We need (the US troops) here for the meantime," said Lydia Ibañez, a Basilan resident whose husband was among about a dozen Filipino farmers kidnapped and beheaded by the Abu Sayyaf last year.

"They have helped us a lot," she said in tears.

An elderly woman, Gliceria Ramirez, recalled the Abu Sayyaf "killed my two children and chopped off their heads."

"We want US troops to join the Filipinos in combating the Abu Sayyaf," she added.

More protests

Even so, Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas chair Rafael Mariano said his group would continue with its protest before and during the arrival of Powell.

"There will be no red carpet welcome for Powell. Instead, the people's red flags will greet Bush's emissary to the puppet Macapagal administration," Mariano said.

A militant Church group also slammed the government's no permit, no rally policy.

"It is the height of irony that American soldiers are free to enter any part of the country while we Filipinos are denied the right to demonstrate against the Balikatan exercises that clearly violate the nation's sovereignty," the Promotion of Church People's Response said in a statement. ***With reports from Julie S. Alipala, Ma. Kristina E. Cassion, Joselle d.R. Badilla and Allan A. Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

POWELL -GO- HOME!
DOWN WITH US IMPERIALISM
-JUNK- MLSA!
Goodbye JOE! Don't Comeback
POWELL, YOU'RE NOT WELCOME

THEY'RE all wet but protesters from the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas get their message across in the waters of Manila Bay. ERIK ARAZAS

Survivors . . .

From page A1

tiffs, including survivors of Japanese prison camps and their descendants, demands unspecified compensation from the government, according to Anthony D'Amato, a lawyer for the plaintiffs.

D'Amato, a law professor of Northwestern University, said he believed he could get around a statute of limitations on such old claims because relevant documents had only surfaced recently.

There was no immediate comment on the lawsuit by the US government.

Filed in the US Court of Federal Claims in Washington, the lawsuit asks for the release of transcripts of conversations between US President Franklin Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill in which they may have discussed America's strategy for entering the war.

Roosevelt's successor, Harry Truman, sealed the transcripts in perpetuity.

D'Amato said he believed Roosevelt and Churchill together agreed to raise obstacles to their citizens wanting to leave the Philippines, such as holding on to their passports, to leave them in the path of the invading Japanese Imperial Army.

At first, the Americans were there in order to deter a Japanese invasion, but they later were stranded as "bait," D'Amato said.

Meanwhile, many other Americans were being withdrawn from around East Asia in anticipation of a Japanese attack, he said.

"I speculate about what went on in those (Roosevelt-Churchill) conversations, but the defendant is hiding all this material," D'Amato said.

"I would like it stipulated, unless the government refutes it, that the presumption is true," he added.

Just eight hours after the Japanese launched the surprise Dec. 7, 1941 attack on the US fleet anchored in Hawaii's Pearl Harbor, an armada of US planes was destroyed on the ground at a Filipino base.

As many as 12,000 Americans living in the Philippines subsequently were rounded up by the Japanese, many spending the war in brutal Japanese prison camps where starvation and disease claimed many lives.

D'Amato said the genesis of the suit was a contact he received from American camp survivor Marcia Fee Achenbach, who was 4 years old when American soldiers liberated her prison camp.

He said Achenbach, now a plaintiff in the case, had dug up documentation that the US government issued orders not to issue passports to American citizens, and that a ban preventing citizens without passports from reentering the United States was lifted only late in 1941. ***Reuters***

'First-class' insults . . .

From page A1

ing the DENR chief was merely standing up to the Paper Industries Corporation of the Philippines, or Picop.

Alvarez had accused Pichay of "lawyering for Picop," the country's biggest paper manufacturer which operates a 184,000-hectare logging area in Surigao del Sur. Its Timber License Agreement (TLA) expired in April, and Alvarez has refused to approve the "automatic conversion" of the TLA into an Integrated Forest Management Agreement (Ifma).

Pichay said Alvarez should "understand the body language of the President and submit his resignation immediately."

"By forcing himself in his position, he is giving credence to Picop's accusation that he is extorting money from the firm," Pichay said.

He said Alvarez was being anti-labor and committing economic sabotage by forcing Picop to close down.

"He is killing business interests in the country and that is economic sabotage. Thousands of people will lose their livelihood if Picop will close so he is anti-labor as well," Pichay said.

Presidential warranty

Mario Lumanao, chair of the Masang Alyansa alang sa Kalamboan sa mga Lumad (Makalumad), a broad support group of individuals and organizations fighting for "lumad" rights, said it was a shame that their own congressman was lobbying for a presidential warranty for Picop.

Pichay admitted that he was helping the manufacturer.

"Picop is in my province and it is the biggest employer and taxpayer in Surigao del Sur," Pichay said.

He said the province was earning P200 million from the company's operations. The firm also employs 5,000 people and benefits up to 20,000 families, he added.

"If I am fighting for Picop's continued operations for the benefit of my constituents, then I plead guilty to Alvarez's accusation that I'm a first-class influence-peddler," Pichay added.

But Pichay said Alvarez was trying to kill Picop's operations in favor of Shannalyne Inc. He said Alvarez wanted to award the Singaporean company a 110,000-hectare logging concession even if the firm only had a capital of P500,000.

"They say Alvarez is a man of steel because *binabakalan niya daw ang Picop* (he is extorting money from Picop). This is a serious accusation which, going by the evidence presented by the company, should already have prompted any man with delicadeza to turn in his resignation to the President," Pichay said.

Picop area

Picop's logging area includes private and ancestral lands of small tree farmers and "lumad" cultural communities.

The second district of Surigao del Sur has a population of about 200,000. Eighty percent of the people from its four municipalities and the city of Bislig are "lumad," in particular the Kamayo and Manobo tribes.

Lumanao said a total of 160,000 "lumad," whose private and ancestral lands are inside the Picop concession—the area extends to the outlying provinces of Compostela Valley, Davao Oriental, and Agusan del Sur—now fear eviction from the land.

In 1969, President Ferdinand Marcos issued a presidential warranty establishing the logging concession boundary lines of Picop and giving it exclusive rights to cut, collect and remove sawtimber and pulpwood in its concession area from 1969 to 1977, renewable for another 25 years.

Picop's TLA expired on April 25. On Oct. 11 last year, the President gave verbal instructions to Alvarez to convert Picop's TLA into an Ifma, reportedly after a meeting with Pichay and Picop president Teodoro Bernardino in Malacañang.

Alvarez said that while the DENR had complied with the President's instructions and started the process of conversion, Pichay and Bernardino wanted an unconditional "automatic conversion," setting aside issues like Picop's unpaid forest charges and surcharges amounting to P37.36 million for logs produced from January to December 2001.

Allowed by law

Automatic conversions are allowed by law provided that the TLA holder showed satisfactory performance and complied with the terms and conditions of the TLA.

In a 1998 report, the now-defunct Economic Intelligence and Investigation Bureau (EIIB) said Picop was liable for misdeclaration of timber species and downgrading of regular logs, production in excess of allowed volume and late payments on weekly forest charges, which amounted to total revenue losses to the government of more than P470 million.

The EIIB then recommended the collection of the P470 million and the immediate suspension of Picop's logging operations. The recommendations were never carried out, and the EIIB was abolished by President Joseph Estrada in February 2000.

Even before the Picop controversy, Lumanao said the "lumad" had been finding it difficult to transport their crops out of the Picop zone as company guards stationed in different checkpoints were confiscating their products.

Before Picop came into the picture, "lumad" used to be slash and burn farmers. Picop encouraged them to plant Falcatta trees, which the paper manufacturer would then buy.

In the 1980s, during a severe market downturn, Picop switched to logging. Since then, Lumanao said, the firm's logging activities competed with those of the "lumad."

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THE SENATORS AS PHOTOGRAPHED BY BOB'S

BOB RAZON

When not squabbling, administration and opposition senators do pull their act together, if only for veteran portrait photographer Bob Razon. (Standing, from left) Senators Panfilo Lacson, Edgardo Angara, Joker Arroyo, Robert Barbers, Rodolfo Biazon, Renato Cayetano, Noli de Castro, Gregorio Honasan, Robert Jaworski, Ramon Magsaysay Jr., Blas Ople, John Osmeña and Sergio Osmeña; (seated, from left) Ralph Recto, Tessie Aquino-Oreta, Juan Flavier, Aquilino Pimentel, Manuel Villar, Franklin Drilon, Loren Legarda-Leviste, Vicente Sotto III, Luisa Ejercito, Francis Pangilinan and Ramon Revilla Sr.

SEC lifted cease-and-desist order on CAP

From page A1

would hamper its ability to pay benefits to its plan holders. The pre-need firm has also reportedly exceeded the cap on investments in real estate.

CAP has proposed the infusion of cash and certain assets into its trust fund. The SEC is still evaluating the proposal.

Unless CAP meets by Sept. 30 the conditions the SEC had set for the pre-need firm to address the trust fund deficiency and other violations, the corporate watchdog may stop CAP from selling education plans. The deadline is non-extendible.

Aside from CAP, at least eight pre-need companies have incurred trust fund deficiencies. The shortfall, including that of CAP's, amounts to P4 billion.

Of the 92 registered pre-need firms, more than a third have stopped operations. Only 45 have renewed their operating licenses with the SEC this year. In 2001, there were 54 active pre-need companies that offered education, pension and memorial plans.

Carmela Bengzon, CAP corporate secretary, said the SEC issued Pre-need Order No. 351 because CAP had submitted a proposed funding scheme two days late. Bengzon said the SEC did not indicate whether the five-day deadline for the submission of the proposal meant five working days.

In its July 24 order, the SEC asked CAP to "submit original authenticated documents evidencing the actual transfer of properties/funds" to the trust fund, including a bank guarantee for P744 million.

The corporate watchdog also ordered CAP to deposit at least 80 percent of its actual collections from plan holders in the trust fund until the trust fund deficiency was addressed.

"If they put in 80 percent from existing collections they (CAP) will be kept whole, by our projection, by the end of next year," SEC Chair Lilia Bautista said. She said CAP would likely be able to pay benefits to plan holders for the next three years. But beneficiaries, who are still young, may have problems with CAP unless the trust fund deficiency is addressed now, according to the SEC chair. "That's why we're insisting they put in more money," Bautista said.

She said the SEC had sent auditors to CAP to ensure that the pre-need company was setting aside 80 percent of its collections for the trust fund.

In its order, the SEC also told CAP to limit its administrative costs to 20 percent of its actual collections. The SEC directed CAP to submit within 15 days of receipt of the order a master list of pre-need plan holders and the actuarial valuation file used to compute the 2001 reserve valuations.

The regulatory agency also ordered CAP to include certain accounts in its financial statement for the third quarter of the year. The SEC said CAP's failure to comply with these conditions would prompt it to impose sanctions on CAP. The SEC did not elaborate. Under the Securities Regulation Code, penalties include revocation or suspension of license to operate and fines. New directives that the SEC recently issued to pre-need companies also affect CAP.

Indefinite suspension

The corporate watchdog has suspended indefinitely the acceptance of new applications for sale of traditional plans until an extensive review of the product offering, including total expected obligations arising from maturing plans, has been done.

CAP is the only pre-need firm offering traditional plans that promise to pay the tuition of the beneficiary for a certain class of schools no matter what the amount.

The SEC said it would not process applications for registration of securities and licensing of salesmen if the issuer had trust fund deficiency and if the SEC had not approved the issuer's funding scheme. This means that if the previous amount of plans that the SEC had allowed a deficient pre-need firm to sell had been fully sold the firm will not be allowed to sell more plans.

Besides CAP, the SEC has yet to approve the financing scheme submitted by one or two other trust fund deficient pre-need firms.

A SEC official said that CAP's trust fund deficiency might exceed P2.59 billion. This is because CAP's actuarial reserve liabilities (ARL), the amount that it should have at this time to meet future liabilities, were based on a yield of 14 percent and not on the 10-percent interest rate under the gentleman's agreement between the industry and the SEC.

The trust fund must equal the ARL and if the ARL is understated then the deficiency is also understated, the SEC official said.

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Fernandez swims for 11 gold medals

CARLOS Alipio Fernandez, the 10-year-old pride of Dagupan City, won 11 gold medals to rule the 10-under category and catapult his team to second overall last weekend in the Pasa championship at the Rizal Pool in Manila. Fernandez, a grandson of Local Government Undersecretary Alipio Fernandez Jr., also won two bronze medals to become the meet's most bemedalled entry.

SPORTS

Editor Al S. Mendoza ● Assistant Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

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Jun B shoots down proposal to draft MBA players this year

By June Navarro

PBA Commissioner Jun Bernardino yesterday shot down the idea of holding a mid-season draft to accommodate the displaced players of the MBA.

The MBA has closed shop, five years after its birth.

"We have to look at the bigger picture. While we sympathize with the MBA players, we don't want to conduct a mid-season draft because it will be displacing PBA players in the process," said Bernardino.

The possibility of holding a draft for the jobless MBA players, Bernardino said, rests on the decision of his successor, whom the PBA Board of Governors has yet to name.

PBA Chair Butch Alejo said the board is preparing a short list of candidates for the post and will definitely name a new commissioner in the fourth quarter, or after the Asian Games in September.

Sonny Barrios, PBA Finance Officer, appears to be the frontrunner among three contenders, the others being Elmer Yanga and Rey Gamboa.

"In short, the possibility of a mid-season draft is slim and those MBA players will have to apply in the draft next year," said Bernardino.

Bernardino also bared the league has started to entertain broadcasting networks interested in airing the PBA games beginning next year.

Bernardino, who formally announced his retirement at the end of the year, said the board of governors has agreed to welcome interested parties which could offer an attractive and viable package for the next three years.

In fact, the PBA board of governors and officials from the commissioner's office, he said, are set to hear the proposal of the National Broadcasting Network (NBN-4) on Friday.

Bernardino also bared that except for GMA 7, other networks have sent feelers to join the PBA family including government-owned station RPN-9 and media mogul ABS-CBN.

League officials will hear the proposals of RPN-9 and Viva-Vintage Sports, the PBA's broadcast partner for decades, next week.

Viva-Vintage Sports, whose existing three-year contract with the league expires when Bernardino steps down at the end of the season, is willing to renew its ties with the PBA.

"They (Viva-Vintage officials) are interested to extend their services but they don't have the right of first refusal. Meaning, the bidding for the right to air the PBA games for the next three years is an open race," said Bernardino.

Selecta-RP boots out Purefoods

By June Navarro

Standings	W	L
Red Bull	7	1
Sta. Lucia	5	2
Coca-Cola	5	3
San Miguel	5	3
Alaska	4	3
Talk N Text	4	4
FedEx	3	4
Shell	3	4
Selecta-RP	3	5
Ginebra	2	6
Purefoods	1	7

GAME TOMORROW
(Philsports)
7 p.m.—Ginebra vs Shell

THE SELECTA-RP Team eased Purefoods out of the quarterfinals after posting a hard-earned 69-65 victory last night in the PBA Samsung Commissioner's Cup at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Finding it hard to operate against the TJ Hotdogs, the Nationals drew strength from the solid plays of Jeffrey Cariaso and Dondon Hontiveros to keep them alive going into the next phase.

Cariaso and Hontiveros fuelled a fiery windup at the height of a Purefoods comeback as the Nationals posted their third win in eight games.

After absorbing their fifth setback in a row for a pitiful 1-7 record, coach Ryan Gregorio and the TJ Hotdogs were ousted from the quarterfinals place.

What the Nationals need now is to squeeze past the Alaska Aces and the Coca-Cola Tigers for them to barge into the next round trouble-free.

"We're having a hard time finding ways to score. But I know in time we'll find a way. We'll just keep on working," said Selecta-RP coach Jong Uichico.

Scores:

SELECTA-RP 69—Hontiveros 12, Cariaso 12, Taulava 8, Castillo 8, Menk 7, Seigle 7, Ildefonso 6, Hatfield 6, Racela 3, Duremdes 0, Espino 0.

PUREFOODS 65—Rosegreen 22, Morris 11, Raymundo 8, Cantonjos 7, Guerrero 6, Mendiola 6, Evangelista 5, Patrimonio 0, Yee 0.

Quarters: 17-12, 34-28, 48-47, 69-65.

Pinoy cagers lose

KUALA LUMPUR—Team Burlington Philippines failed to score in the last three minutes and was beaten by Indonesia, 70-65, in the opener of the 3rd Southeast Asia Basketball Association (Seaba) Men's Junior Championships at the Maba gym here.

Three successive technical fouls called against the Filipinos by the Malaysian referee spelled doom for the Filipinos' bid to come back from a 63-66 deficit.

Now, the Filipinos must sweep their three remaining games to stay in contention for the title of the 18-and-under tournament. *Roy Luarca*

Davao hosting active chess

AFTER two successful legs participated in by nearly 900 wood-pushers, the 2002 Shell National Youth Active Chess Championship moves to Davao City for the tournament's Southern Mindanao segment.

The seven-round Swiss format regional elimination is set Aug. 3-4 in the Gaisano Mall Davao City. At stake is a total purse of P28,500, medals, and slots for top performers in the national grand finals slated next November in Manila.

Expected to grace the tournament's opening rites are Shell government relations manager Bobby Malabanan and host city Mayor Rodrigo R. Duterte.

Special awards will be given to the tournament's youngest player, the most outstanding performer in the 10-under bracket, and the school fielding the most number of participants.

BERNARDINO: "I thank the PBA family and the sportswriters for the memories." FILEPHOTO

PBA is Bernardino's best 20 years of his life

By Dennis U. Eroa

TODAY'S cage fans do not know about "a little-known fact" that is close to the heart of outgoing PBA Commissioner Jun Bernardino.

Bernardino, 54, was the mastermind behind the popular "Man on the Ball" portion of the league. He was tapped for the role in 1982 by Vintage Television, the outfit that revolutionized the TV coverage of Asia's first play-for-pay league.

"I told Bobong (Velez) that we have to get closer to the fans. By having a concept like 'Man on the Ball,' fans can relate to the game and feel they are as important as the game itself," Bernardino told the INQUIRER.

The job required him to interview courtside fans during breaks of a game. Other times, he either interviewed celebrities watching the game or players dishing out exceptional performances.

Ibok to those close to him, Bernardino soon found himself leaving "Man on the Ball." He was recruited by founding PBA Commissioner Leo Prieto as his executive assistant.

Bernardino's position was inherited by Romy Kintanar, now deceased.

Kintanar, with his roly-poly build and owning a rich background of acting in Visayan movies, was a perfect replacement for Bernardino. Kintanar soon found himself being loved by fans with his wit and casual intelligence. Kintanar died last year after a lingering illness.

Unknown to many, Bernardino also had a short-lived stint as coach of the Tefilin squad.

In 1994, Bernardino's PBA career came full circle when he was appointed commissioner. He replaced his mentor, the eminent lawyer Rudy Salud.

When he finally retires in December, Bernardino will have completed 20 years with the PBA.

"By December, I will have given the PBA the best 20 years of my life and at the same time, the league will have also given me its 20 best years of existence. I thank the PBA family and the sportswriters for the memories," Bernardino said.

After almost nine years at the helm, Bernardino is quitting due mainly to health reasons. He said he also misses "the warmth" of family life.

"While discharging my duties, I somehow deprived my family of quality time. I also need to recharge and rest," he said.

An alumnus both of Ateneo and the University of the Philippines (college), Bernardino is married to Mimi, a native of Villasis, Pangasinan. They have four children—Nolan, Vera, Kristine and New York-based Stephanie.

He is flying to San Francisco on Aug. 16 to seek what he said "would be hopefully the correct treatment" for his heart ailment.

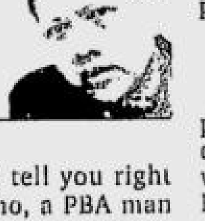
Bernardino suffered a heart attack in Baguio City April of last year. He was air-lifted to Manila, cutting short a vacation. He defied doctor's orders to go under the knife, preferring to undergo medication backed by a restructured diet based mainly on fish and vegetables.

From San Francisco, he is set to fulfill a commitment to watch the World Basketball Championship in Indianapolis upon invitation of the organizers.

"Hopefully, while watching the games there, I can do my share for flag and country by scouting our opposition bound for the Busan Asian Games," he said.

Sorry, but we are not a house of charity

SPECTATOR



Al S. Mendoza

THAT was one tough decision Jun Bernardino did. Or just had to do.

By rejecting the drafting of MBA players that would have been unprecedented in the 27-year history of the PBA, the no-nonsense Commissioner in the process has made a telling statement: The league is not a house of charity. Golden Acres. Hospicio de San Jose. Or Tahanang Walang Hagdan.

"While I sympathize with the sad fate that has befallen our brothers in the MBA, I cannot accede to pleas for me to allow a mid-season draft just to accommodate them," he said.

He was, in effect, telling us that he is not Big Brother to anyone. Neither a Rockefeller nor a Getty, the famous philanthropists.

To be sure, or better yet, to reassure the public, I can tell you right off that Jun Bernardino, a PBA man since 1982, is not a tough-talking fella. He owns the softest of hearts.

However, if the interest of the league has to come ahead of his own, he'll have no iota of hesitation to enforce it. Never will he put forward his heart at the expense of the overall picture. In short, he is not like the frog in the well whose view from below is that of a sky that is not bigger than the mouth of the well.

"A draft at this time would displace our very own players in the PBA," said he.

Selfish?

Not at all.

He was merely taking the totality of the picture, not just an angle of the whole as exemplified by the frog in the well. He would have loved listening to his heart. But had he done that, he would have pleased only his heart, not the league. He would have inflated his ego, but deflated the league's gains of 27 years.

But what honor would a man get if in the end, he'd be tortured by his own superficially-made heroism? As Henry Austin Dobson said: "Fame is a food that dead men eat, I have no stomach for such meat."

His job—he had known from the day he assumed his august office in 1994—was to always look beyond what his heart could not see, fathom. He knows that, oftentimes, the heart is not objective, is blind to realities. Logic and sound judgment are usually anchored on one's ability to subvert his/her own leanings, if not feelings.

What a guy.

People of less sterner stuff would have stepped back in the name of accommodation, or paused awhile to reflect on the wisdom attendant to such a move like the unscheduled admission of, yes, not-so-total strangers.

But then, are we talking here of a Placement Agency or an institution whose founding fathers are steep in principles and time-tested foundations?

Go ask Jun B. Surely, you'll get the right answer. And a no-nonsense explanation in support of the reply.

Blazers eye 6th straight NCAA win

By June Navarro

Standings	W	L
St. Benilde	5	0
PCU	4	1
Letran	3	2
SSC-R	3	2
JRU	2	3
Mapua	2	3
UPHR	1	4
San Beda	0	5

GAMES TODAY (Rizal Memorial Coliseum)
11:30 a.m.—San Beda vs CSB (jrs/srs)
4 p.m.—UPHR vs PCU (srs/jrs)

COLLEGE of St. Benilde and Philippine Christian University try to fortify their standings when they go up against faltering foes today in the NCAA basketball tournament at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

The unbeaten Blazers shoot for their sixth straight victory opposite winless San Beda College at 2 p.m. while the Dolphins hope to extend their win streak to five against University of Perpetual Help-Rizal in the other varsity game.

Fresh from an 82-50 rout of the Altas last week, the Blazers are the heavy favorites owing to their deep and talented bench.

The Red Lions absorbed their fifth straight defeat at the hands of the Dolphins, 88-69, and another whacking from the 2000 NCAA champions isn't far-fetched.

Averaging almost 30 points a game, Sunday Salvacion has been doing wonders for the Blazers, who downed defending champion San Sebastian College, one of the threats to the crown.

Salvacion, Jan Coching, Al Magpayo, Ronald Capati, Edward Castro and rookie Ernie Sagad form the Blazers hard-working crew.

Besides from the Stags, the Dolphins also have the manpower to match the strength of the Blazers and they will use it to the hilt against the Altas.

Lot Soriano, Bernzon Franco, Joseph Roque, Nelson Gatdula, Leo Gaspi and Alwin Ilagan possess the prowess and intensity needed to the give the Altas a run for their money.

Fuentes stuns Delo Extreme Challenge foes

CEBU CITY—Jojo Fuentes of Bacolod Off-Road Club came out a surprise winner, upstaging the favorites in the third leg of the 2002 Caltex Delo 4x4 Extreme Challenge Sunday at the Cebu Civic Trade Center in Ayala 2 here.

Fuentes clocked the fastest combined time of 3:12.39 on the three treacherous tracks that proved to be quite a challenge to the participating drivers in this series sponsored by Caltex Delo and organized by the National Association of Filipino Off-Roaders Inc. (NAsFOR) headed by Ramon To-ong.

For a while, top favorite Richard Emano of Cagayan de Oro appeared unbeatable as he clocked a total time of 3:32.62 on the first day of this event also supported by Procter and Gamble Philippines, 103.5 K Lite, RX93.1, 199 Off Road House, Ramsey Winches, AC Delco Batteries, Downy Off Road, Simex Tires and Asia IT Townpark.

But the track dried up and turned smoother for the other drivers the next day. Fuentes clocked 49.62 on the shortest Track C and finished Track A in 1:19.15.

George Co of Ormoc Off-Road Club was the last hope to beat Fuentes but his time of 1:18.00 on track B wasn't enough and ended second with a combined time of 3:30.34 that dislodged Emano to third place.

Agassi fined $80T for no show in tilt

TORONTO—Australia's Lleyton Hewitt, the world's No. 1 tennis player, lost to Spain's Felix Mantilla, 2-6, 6-4, 6-3, in the first round of the $ 2.95 million Tennis Masters Canada tournament Monday.

But Andre Agassi getting fined $80,00 for withdrawing at the last minute overshadowed Mantilla's victory.

Among other players scheduled for Tuesday openers were Marat Safin of Russia, No. 2 in the world rankings, and Daniel Nestor of Toronto.

"I am surprised because in the last month I wasn't playing so well," Mantilla said. **AP**

Fireworks expected today as POC tackles NSA gripes

By Marc Anthony Reyes

ROMY Ribaño, secretary general of the Philippine Olympic Committee, yesterday said the POC leadership is ready to face its critics in today's general assembly set at the Café J along Pasay Road in Makati City.

Ribaño said the POC will also entertain appeals by several National Sports Associations to include more of their athletes to the Asian Games set from September to October in Busan, South Korea, this year.

The deadline of submission for inclusion of athletes to Team Philippines is Aug. 15.

Also tabled today is the appeal to include the 20-man baseball team.

"I hope there will be no intrigues tomorrow," said Ribaño. "We'll be discussing crucial Asian Games issues. As much as possible, we want to stick to the agenda."

Several NSA heads, led by the Philippine Tennis Association, Philippine Taekwondo Association and Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association are reportedly set to raise several issues which, they believed, the POC leadership had "failed to handle properly."

An issue they intend to raise is the Olympic Day Fun Run. They said the POC allegedly spent no less than P200,000, an amount they said was way beyond the usual budget of P50,000.

The group is also set to question the POC decision to withdraw sanction from the two warring factions in the Philippine Amateur Cycling Association.

Other issues they wish to raise:

- The POC handling of the marketing aspect of the Asian Games
- The weightlifting election
- The POC endorsement of Rep. Monico Puentevella's election as weightlifting president

EDWIN BACASMAS

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo throwing the ceremonial pitch during Monday's Little League games at the Rizal Memorial Baseball park.

RP reduced to spoiler's role against New Zealand

Games Today
9 a.m. – New Zealand vs. Philippines
11 a.m. – Saipan vs. Indonesia
1 p.m. – Hong Kong vs. Japan

REDUCED to playing a spoiler's role following back-to-back losses it absorbed at the hands of Indonesia and Saipan, the Philippines will play New Zealand today in the Asia-Pacific Region Little League championship at the Rizal Ballpark.

The International Little League Association of Manila fights for pride when the embattled hosts tackle New Zealand at 9 a.m. in a battle of winless teams.

Japan beat the Philippines, 4-0, on opening day and then Saipan eliminated the Filipinos, 15-0, in the single-round robin affair.

The eight-nation tournament will pick the region's representative to the Little League World Series in Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

President Macapagal-Arroyo had graced the ILLAM-Saipan game on Monday.

ILLAM is under pressure to chalk up a much-needed win against New Zealand since it is up against defending champion Guam in its final game tomorrow. Guam defeated Saipan yesterday, 4-3.

Centerfielder Hosea Ware hit a solo homer in the second inning to spike the Guamanians' escape-act over Saipan. Guam secured a tie for the Pacific berth in the finals with its third straight win.

Indonesia scored a 16-2 win in five innings over New Zealand to notch its second win. It meets Saipan in a crucial match today at 11 a.m.

The tournament is being organized by Little League Philippines with the City of Manila as host and the Philippine Sports Commission, League of Provinces, Tan Yan Kee Foundation Inc., Reliv Philippines, San Miguel Corporation and Nestle Philippines as sponsors.

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28.4%	200,000	42,083	28,056	22,096	15,729	12,576	10,500
30%	211,500	41,125	27,417	20,563	15,320	12,249	10,780
35%	246,750	38,188	25,458	19,094	14,067	11,247	9,897
50%	352,500	29,375	19,583	14,688	10,308	8,242	7,249

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20%	144,000	48,000	32,000	25,641	18,252	14,593	12,847
27.8%	200,000	43,333	28,889	22,845	16,262	13,002	11,000
30%	216,000	42,000	28,000	22,046	15,693	12,547	11,043
35%	252,000	39,000	26,000	19,500	14,413	11,524	10,142
50%	360,000	30,000	20,000	15,000	10,575	8,455	7,436

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All but 1 charge vs Iverson dismissed

PHILADELPHIA—A judge dismissed all but one charge against NBA All-Star Allen Iverson, arrested for allegedly storming into his cousin's apartment with a gun and threatening two men while looking for his wife.

A charge of making terroristic threats was the only one left standing Monday by Municipal Court Judge James DeLeon.

The ruling came after a six-hour hearing that included testimony from Iverson's two accusers and his cousin Shaun Bowman.

Iverson, the NBA MVP in the 2000-01 season, was accused of throwing his wife, Tawanna, out of their home, then storming into Bowman's apartment July 3.

The Philadelphia 76ers guard was arrested on 14 felony and misdemeanor charges, including assault, terroristic threats and weapons offenses. Iverson's uncle also was charged.

He was the subject of intense local media scrutiny after the allegations surfaced. Hordes of reporters and photographers camped outside Iverson's suburban mansion in the days before he turned himself in July 16 to face the charges.

It's not Iverson's first brush with the law.

As a teenager in 1993, he was arrested after a bowling-alley brawl and spent four months in jail in Virginia before he was granted clemency by the governor. The conviction was later overturned.

In 1997, Iverson pleaded no contest to gun possession.

He also made an unreleased rap CD in which he used derogatory terms for women and gays, and he's fought several times with 76ers coach Larry Brown.

Through it all, Iverson remains enormously popular.

Instant replay okayed

NEW YORK —The NBA will make sure next season that last-second shots really do beat the buzzer.

The league on Monday approved the use of instant replay beginning with the 2002-2003 preseason, just months after some controversial last-second calls in the playoffs.

Officials can also determine if a player was fouled before time expired (but not whether the foul call was correct or not) and if a 24-second shot clock or eight-second backcourt violation occurred before a shot. AP

SPORTSWATCH

Hartmann, Spring win

HARTMAN Seigle posted two more victories to show the way in the 4th Danny Espiritu Invitational Open Cup basketball tournament while defending champion Spring Cooking Oil also won twice to bounce back after a shocking loss on opening day at the Makati Coliseum. Hartman Seigle topped Forward Taguig, 77-72, and Pasay, 84-82, to make it three in a row in the cagefest sponsored by Spring Margarine, Morning Star Tours and Travel, Red Bull, Purefoods, SMB, Sta. Lucia Realty, Coca Cola, Fedex, Talk N Text, Ginebra San Miguel, Shell and Alaska Milk and supported by Milo and Adida. Coach Tito Palma's Spring cagers toppled Pasay, 90-82, and Homer Mercado, 74-71, to improve their record to 2-1. The Cooking Oil Experts fell to Hartman Seigle, 70-79, last week.

'Futbol' tourney backed

THE PINOY football scene got a major boost yesterday when the country's leading shipping company, WG&A, agreed to be a sponsor of the upcoming 1st Family Futbol League. Also known as the "Captain of the Shipping Industry," WG&A was lauded for backing the soccerfest which is expected to kick off sometime in August.

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

MOTOR SPORTS: Race Day—Mobil 1 German Grand Prix at 9 p.m. (r) on Star Sports
2002 F1 World Championship - Mobil 1 German Grand Prix at 9:45 p.m. (r) on Star Sports
TENNIS: ATP Mercedes-Benz Cup Finals at 7:30 p.m. (r) on Star Sports
Masters Series (Toronto), Early Round Coverage Day #1 at 9 a.m. (r), Day 2 at 7 p.m. on Star Sports
GOLF: PGA John Deere Classic, Third Round at 1:30 p.m. (r) on Star Sports
SOCCER: Futbol Mundial at 7 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

IVERSON shouts back at reporters and photographers swarming around his car as he leaves the Criminal Justice Center in Philadelphia on Monday. AP

Young dancers shine

YOUNG dance athletes Reynato Rener Mercado and Judith Anne Melencio emerged the biggest winners in the recent sixth mid-year ranking and competitions of the Dance Sport Council of the Philippines by capturing two junior titles at the Philsports Arena in Pasig City.

Mercado and Melencio, 14 and 12 years old, respectively, won the junior Modern Standard championships of the highly successful tournament organized by the DSCP headed by Becky Garcia. DSCP is the only amateur dancesport organization recognized by the Philippine Olympic Committee.

Another young dance pair, John Erolle Melencio and Judith Dame Tadeo, who will turn 18 four years from now, topped the youth category of the Latin American discipline. Twelve categories were disputed in the tourney sponsored by the POC, Philippine Sports Commission, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Doctor Trusted Alaxan, Carlines Transportation and Rent-A-Car, Rainforest Mineral Water, Mandom Philippines (Gatsby Gel) and ABC 5. The other champions were : (Modern Standard), Grade A—Edgar Borromeo and Ana Dulce Yango; Grade C- Leonardo Telebangco and Yuriko Fukada and Grade D- Kristan Sese and Elvira Yulo.

Mindanao Games slated

FOREIGN teams are expected to see action in the 2nd Mindanao Friendship Games (MFG) in Cagayan de Oro City set Oct. 15-19 as preparations by the organizing Philippine Sports Commission shift to high gear.

PSC Commissioner William "Butch" Ramirez, overall project director, said that the BIMP-EAGA, comprising the Island of Sarawak, Brunei, Sabah, Lubuan, Malaysia, Kalimanatan, and Maluko Irian Jaya of Indonesia, have been invited to send teams and participate in the event.

The Northern Territory of Darwin, Australia has likewise been invited to send a delegation and participate, particularly in football and basketball," said Ramirez. "We hope to provide exposure to our Mindanaoan athletes through friendly competitions with these foreign teams."

The multi-sport open event competition expects to gather about 4,000 athletes and officials from 50 provinces and highly urbanized and chartered cities from all over Mindanao.

Hosts Cagayan de Oro City Mayor Vicente Emano and Misamis Oriental Governor Antonio Calingin are likewise leaving no stone unturned to ensure that facilities are in top condition when the biggest sporting event in the region opens at the Don Gregorio Pelaez Sports Complex.

Commissioner Ramirez said that President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo has put Mindanao high in her socio-economic agenda and the MFG serves as one of the catalysts in fast-tracking development in the region.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1994, Rogelio Adenig clocked 52 minutes, 18 seconds to capture the 2nd Cortal 15K "Pabilisan Para sa Kabuhayan" fun run in Batangas City.

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PBA refs changing for the better

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

FOR the first time in many months, discriminating basketball fans commended the referees of last Sunday's PBA Commissioner's Cup doubleheader for a job well done. Earning the respect and appreciation of the crowd with their generally fair and satisfactory officiating are referees Ernie de Leon, Franco Ylagan and Arthur Herrera, who worked the first game between San Miguel Beer and Fed-Ex which the Beermen won, 85-73; and Jose Bernarte, Mario Montiel and Augusto Ramos, who presided over the main attraction between defending champion Batang Red Bull and Talk N Text which the Thunder also easily won, 92-80.

"The calls were satisfactory,'" said a PBA regular. "And I hope the referees maintain this same level of fair and responsible officiating since the teams are now playing with unmatched ferocity because the results are important in their quest for slots in the next round."

As the arbiters of the game, it is their responsibility to the basketball fans and to the team owners to make sure that their calls are always firm, fair and honest. The referees must always assert their authority over the players, in particular ill-tempered imports like Art Long of SMB because they exercise a direct and dominating influence over them.

* * *

THUNDER ON A ROLL. Batang Red Bull is on a roll. The Photokina franchise owned by much respected George Chua and coached by young and innovative Yeng Guiao is now on top of the heap with an impressive 7-1 (win-loss) card, already assured of a twice-to-beat advantage in the next round. And because it is a tall and young team with a very deep bench, many cage experts pick Red Bull to dominate this conference, with San Miguel Beer and Sta. Lucia Realty looming as the Thunder's most likely rivals.

"We are ready to defend the title," said the 42-year-old Guiao. "Unlike before, we are no longer weak in the middle. Davonn (Harp) is back and doing well, Julius (Nwosu) is playing brilliantly in both offense and defense while veteran Tony (Lang) is providing the maturity to the team." Besides, Guiao stressed, his local players are vastly improving: No. 1 pick Willie Miller, skipper Jimwell Torion, Anton Villoria, sweet-shooting Lordy Tugade, Junthy Valenzuela and Jay Mendoza are going great guns, aside from blending well with their hard-fighting imports and new teammates Noli Locsin, Vince Hizon, Nelson Asaytono and promising Homer Se.

However, Guiao said Red Bull will find the sailing rough, echoing what team manager Tony Chua once said, "For sure, this conference will be most exciting given the quality field and the high level of competition."

* * *

SPORTS TRIVIA. The late Gonzalo Puyat, founder of Gonzalo Puyat & Sons Inc., one of the oldest industrial conglomerates in the Philippines, was a poor boy from Pampanga who made his fortune in Manila. In 1905, he worked as an attendant in a small pool hall in the city before he went into the business of repairing, then manufacturing billiard tables. In 1912, a Puyat-made billiard table won the gold medal at the first Philippine Industrial Exposition held in Manila. He died in 1968 at the age of 89. Two of his grandsons, Jose (Popit), a former congressman and Jose's younger brother Aristeo (Putch) Puyat, continued the family tradition by establishing the AMF-Puyat Bowling and Billiards Centers, organizers of the Bowling World Cup elimination tournaments in the Philippines which produced several outstanding bowlers, including the legendary Paeng Nepomuceno, winner of four World Cup titles. The Puyat brothers also bankrolled many billiards champions, including the incomparable Efren "Bata" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante, who have won honor and prestige for the Philippines in international competitions.

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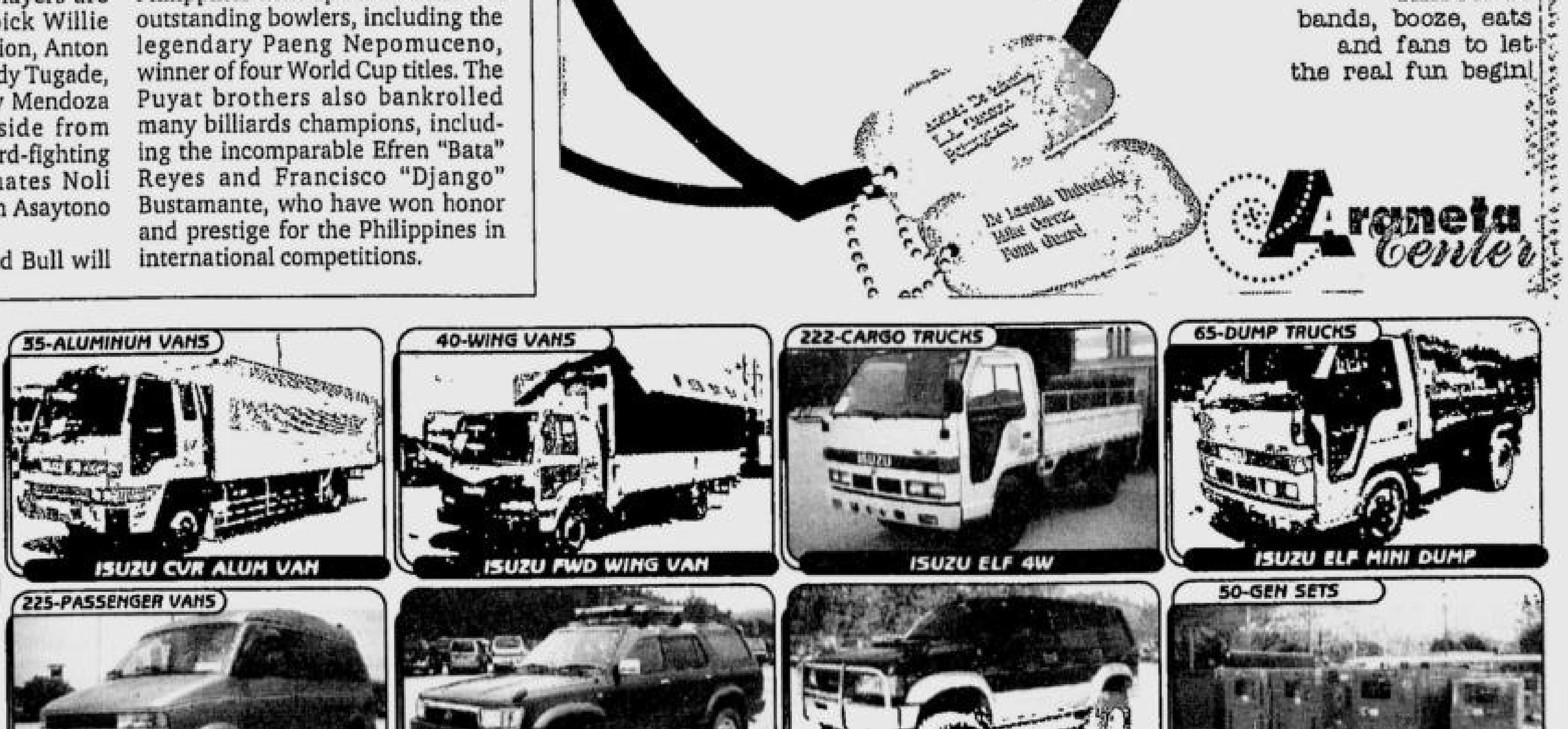

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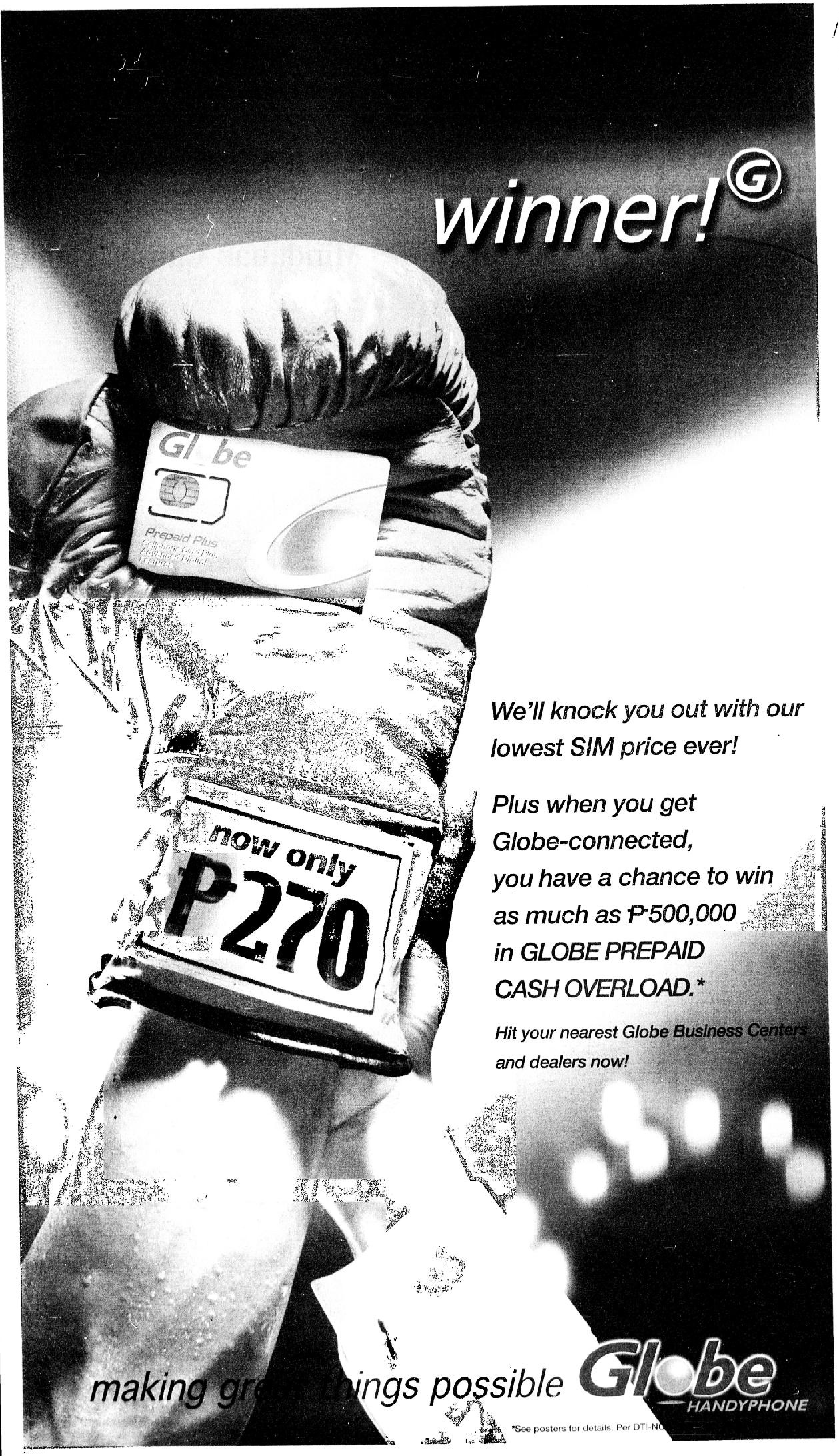
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■ General, Jericho men try to get 5 cops off the hook /A26

METRO

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

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NBI/ p. A26

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100,000/ p. A26

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Cowboy Grill, NOVALICHES Q.C.	HIMIG PRYZM	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎936.9757
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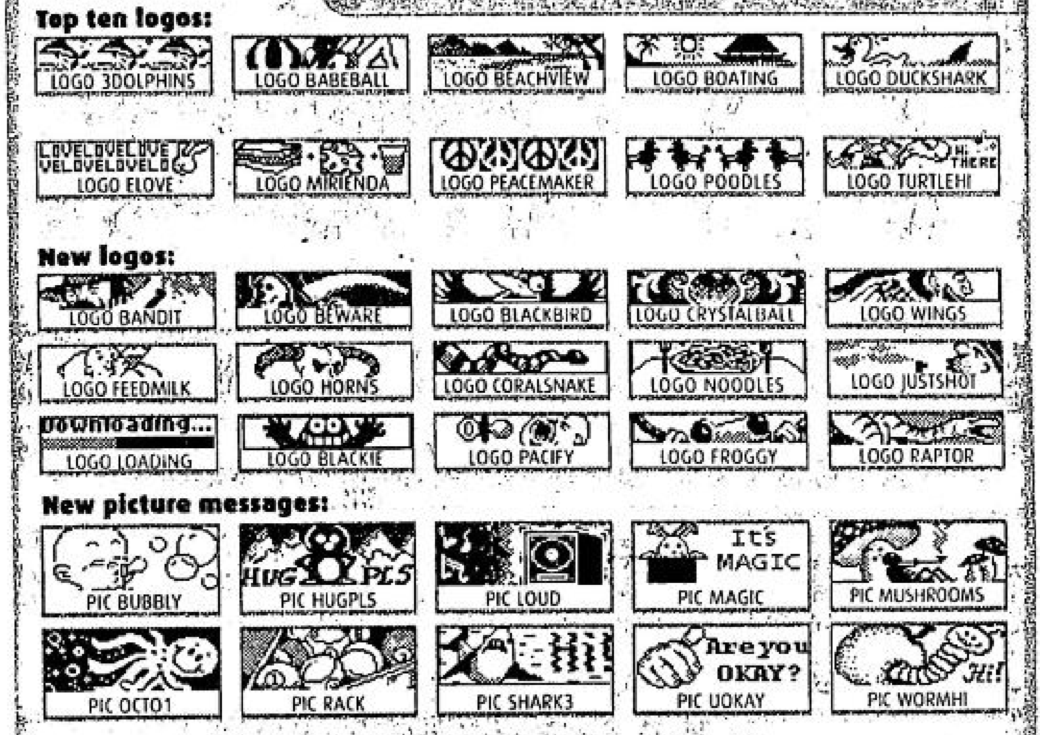

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Spotlight on

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METRO

Editor Louie C. Camino

tc ıps

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NBI/ p. A26

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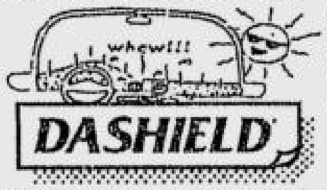

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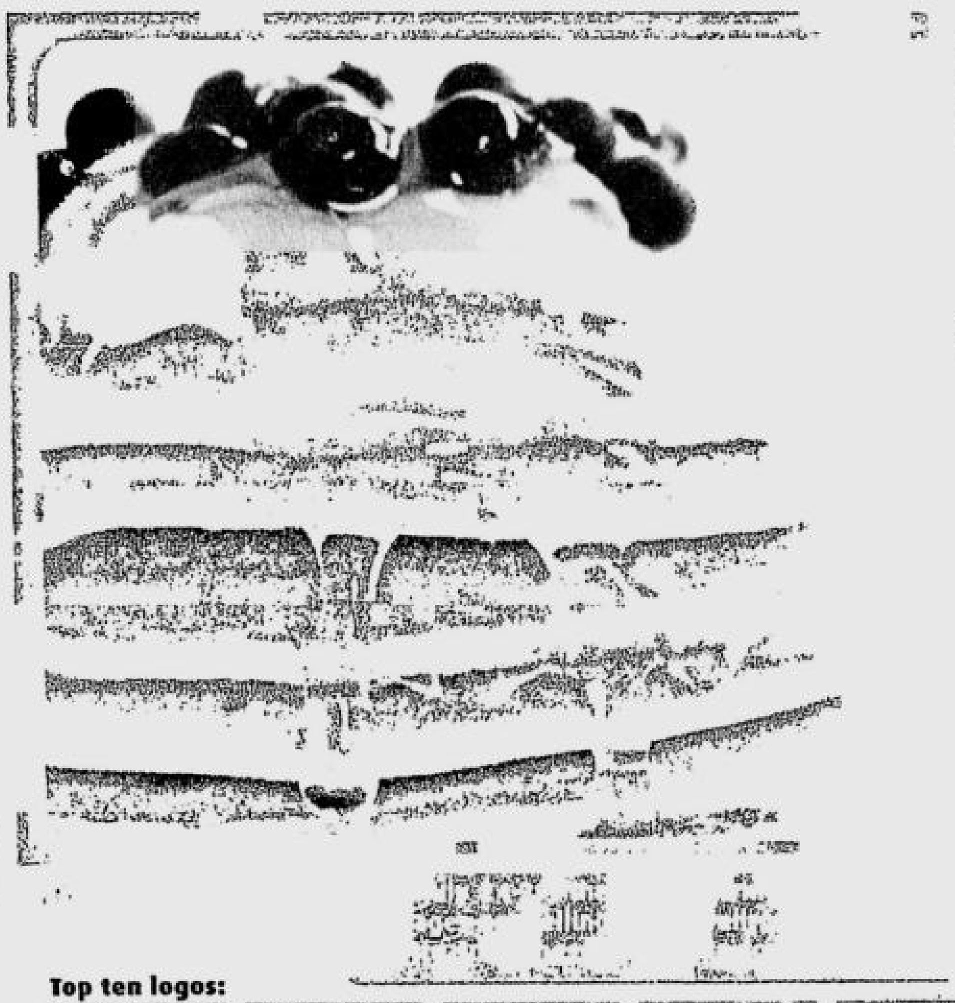

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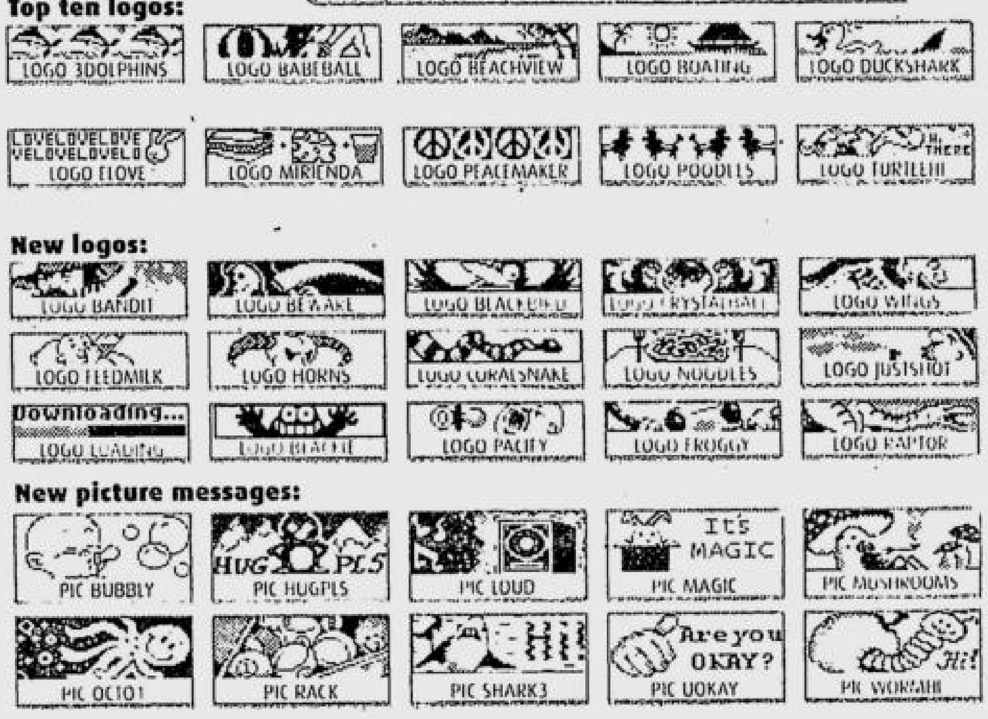

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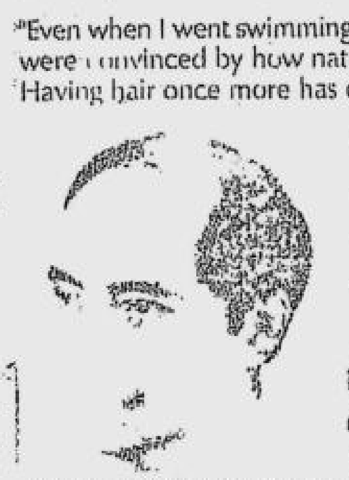
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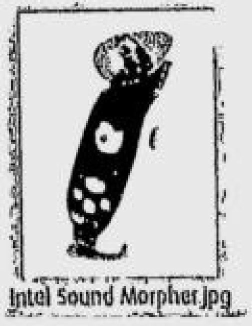
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1351 series of 2002

Spotlight on



Intel Sound Morpher.jpg

General, Jericho men try to get 5 cops off the hook

By Philip C. Tubeza

AN OFFICIAL of the Western Police District yesterday said a retired police general and several members of Task Force Jericho tried to pressure Manila police investigators not to file charges of kidnapping and robbery-extortion against five members of the task force.

The police general who allegedly represented himself as the suspects' lawyer and several other members of Jericho went to the WPD General Assignments Section at about 1 p.m. on Monday and lobbied to get the five policemen off the hook, according to the official who asked not to be identified.

But the WPD still pressed the charges against SPO1 Jesus Acejo, PO2 Ricardo Luciano Jr. and Police Officers 1 Danilo Hamila, Fred Faraon and Manolito Prado before the Manila prosecutor's office.

Assistant City Prosecutor Romeo S. Poso found merit in the robbery-extortion charges and set bail of P100,000 for each of the accused. But he ordered further investigation of the kidnapping charges.

The policemen were accused of demanding P10,000 for the release of suspected bookies Michelle del Mundo and Rosemarie R. Martinez last Sunday.

"TRAPPED" members of Task Force Jericho questioned at the WPD on Monday: Acejo, Hamila, Luciano, Faraon and Prado.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Del Mundo's father, PO3 Bonifacio Abad, a member of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, filed a complaint against the suspects before the WPD.

WPD policemen then set an entrapment operation and arrested the five suspects during a payoff in front of Acejo's house in Sta. Ana, Manila.

Police found Del Mundo and Martinez in Acejo's garage.

Supt. Marcelino Pedrozo Jr., WPD General Assignment Section chief, said the suspects should have brought the women to the police station if their operations were legitimate.

He said that while the marked money was not recovered, Hamila, who received the money, tested positive for phosphorescent powder.

Pedrozo said "his hands and arms had ultra-violet fluorescent powder," which showed that he handled the money.

He said the suspects were able to dispose of the marked money before Manila policemen arrested them.

Pedrozo welcomed any investigation of the allegations that the task force members had been set up, adding that he was confident of the strength of the case against the erring policemen.

FRESNEDI

Outstanding

MUNTINLUPA City Mayor Jaime R. Fresnedi achieved a grand slam of sorts at the 1st Regional Sandugo recognition and awarding ceremonies held July 29 at the Heritage Hotel.

Fresnedi received the awards for Sandugo Outstanding Achiever and Sandugo Blood Galloner Pearl awardee, and became the first Metro Manila mayor Blood Galloner for three consecutive years.

Fresnedi became the first and only mayor from Metro Manila to be a Blood Galloner awardee for three consecutive years for holding regular mass blood donations in Muntinlupa.

A Blood Galloner is one who has contributed at least nine units of blood. Fresnedi has so far contributed 24 units.

He was alo recognized for his support for the National Voluntary Blood Services Program.

The 1st Regional Sandugo recognition and awarding ceremonies recognize the efforts of people who have been supporting and participating in bloodletting activities of the Department of Health. The awards were conferred by Health Sec. Manuel Dayrit.

100,000 might lose homes . . .

From p. A25

Pasig River.

The massive displacement of families would also be triggered by the implementation of flood-control projects in northern Metro Manila and in areas surrounding the Laguna Lake, the group said.

Residents of Taguig in Metro Manila as well as of Rizal and Laguna provinces are pushing for the suspension of the P2.9-billion megadike project in their area, claiming it would not solve flooding but would destroy large tracts of land.

Anana asked the MMDA and other government agencies to comply with President Macapagal-Arroyo's 2001 memorandum calling for a review of all pending and incomplete insfrastructure projects.

The projects include the C-5 and R-10 roads, the Pasig River Rehabilitation Program, the North and South Railway, the Controlled Zones of the National Government Center, and the flood-control projects.

METROBRIEFS

Worker convicted

THE DYING declaration of Annabelle Guillermo that a construction worker had attacked her on her way to a Christmas party on Dec. 19, 2000 led to the conviction of construction worker Joel Bio Billones. Parañaque Judge Raul de Leon yesterday sentenced Billones, 29, to a 40-year jail term and ordered him to pay Guillermo's family P342,684 in damages. Guillermo, 38, assistant manager of an Equitable Bank branch, was on her way to a Christmas party when Billones snatched her at knifepoint, dragged her into a dark area on Simon Street in Sun Valley Subdivision and tried to rape her. The records said Billones stabbed Guillermo when she resisted and shouted for help. On their way to a hospital, Guillermo had told her husband Ray that a man working in a nearby construction site was the one who attacked her, the records said.

Christian V. Esguerra

Birthday death

DEATH came to Jaime Martinez on his 29th birthday last Monday. Unidentified men shot Martinez to death during his birthday celebration in Quezon City, police said. Martinez, of San Rafael Street, Old Balara, Quezon City, was drinking with his friends Rogelio Galvez and Boy Ranada in his home at about 7 p.m. when his neigbor, a certain "Parang," told him someone was looking for him. Martinez excused himself and went out to the street where the unidentified men shot him, police said.

Alcuin Papa

Mayors to ask Palace to explain proposal

By Jerome Aning

MANILA MAYOR Lito Atienza yesterday said he and other Metro Manila mayors would ask Malacañang to clarify its order to study the proposed devolution of police control.

Atienza complained that the National Police Commission has a "strange interpretation of the President 's directive" on the transfer of police control to the National Capital Region's 17 city and town mayors.

During a dialogue with Metro Manila mayors last weekend, Napolcom Executive Vice Chair Rogelio Pureza said there is no need for a new presidential directive to effect the transfer. He said that under the law, mayors are automatically deputized as Napolcom representatives.

Mayors therefore already have the "necessary powers" over the police, including conducting inspections and audit , imposing discipline and penalties, choosing the police chief and recommending appointments, reassignments and transfers, Pureza said.

"It seems there have been a reversal of roles, since Napolcom is now claiming that we mayors are under the police," Atienza yesterday told reporters in City Hall.

He said President Macapagal-Arroyo's order was very clear: that Metro Manila mayors be given direct control and supervision over the police, including the power to hire or fire.

Atienza said he and the other mayors would submit their own draft of the presidential order giving them police control.

"If we don't perform, then let the power be taken back from us," he said. "We are directly accountable to the President and to the people so we will not shirk from this responsibility if it is given to us."

Manila Councilor Don Ramon Bagatsing dismissed the fears of National Capital Region congressmen that the planned devolution would be open to abuse.

Bagatsing said the merits of turning over police control to LGUs far outweigh the perceived disadvantages.

"The mayors must be given overall authority in their areas of jurisdiction," he said. "Otherwise they would only be relegated to collecting garbage and sweeping streets."

The "NCR Bloc" at the House of Representatives, led by northern Metro Manila lawmakers, said local police forces could be turned into private armies by mayors.

The bloc is composed of Representatives Encrico Echiverri and Edgar Erice (Caloocan City), Ricky Sandoval (Malabon City-Navotas) and Magtanggol Gunigundo Jr. (Valenzuela City).

Bagatsing said Metro Manila residents are "intelligent and would be quickly aware" if their mayor turns policemen into his private army.

Also yesterday, Senior Supt. Pedro Bulaong, the new chief of the Western Police District, said high police visibility and enforcement of simple laws are what Mayor Atienza expects from him.

"Let's get back to basics, maintain high police visibility and diligently enforce laws and ordinances," Atienza told Bulaong. "This is the key to maintaining peace and order in Manila."

The mayor said simple enforcement of ordinances and other laws, such as those prohibiting vagrancy and urinating in public, would lead to the prevention of bigger crimes.

Atienza said he has confidence in Bulaong and he believes the police colonel, having risen from the ranks in the WPD, would be "very effective in his new job."

Bulaong submitted to the mayor a program of action for the WPD, including the regular conduct of foot and mobile patrols as well as the revival of the detective force.

A minimum of 50 patrol cars would also be deployed on a 24-hour basis throughout the capital, Bulaong said.

The detective force would conduct profiling of syndicated crime groups believed to be operating in Manila.

Bulaong also vowed to punish any policemen who would commit illegal acts and abuses.

NBI: New witness saw Strunk, Medel

From p. A25

Wycoco also urged the Departmet of Justice panel of prosecutors to hasten their preliminary investigation because Torres is eager to testify against Strunk and the other suspects.

He explained that Torres needs to take the witness stand as soon as possible because she needs to go back to her job in the United States.

"Her job might be jeopardized," the NBI director said. "We need to immediately put her on the stand."

While the NBI now has 26 witnesses in the Nida Blanca case, Wycoco said the bureau is very careful in accepting other new possible witness.

He said people who come forward with new information about Blanca's murder go through a rigorous process because the NBI wants to make sure that they are not "planted" to wreck the government's case.

Wycoco said the bureau is still investigating the unidentified John and Jane Does charged before the DOJ.

"We are still gathering enough evidence against the John and Jane Does," he said. "We have to do that before we identify them."

Woman, driver get life for shabu

A WOMAN drug dealer and her drug-dependent driver were sentenced to life imprisonment yesterday for selling 469.19 grams of methamphetamine hydrochloride, or shabu, last year.

Found guilty of drug peddling was Rosalinda Manimbo, alias Rosalia Manansala, and her driver Melencio Pena.

Judge Jaime Salazar of the QC Regional Trial Court Branch 103 also fined them P1 million each.

Manimbo and Pena were arrested in an entrapment operation conducted by the Philippine National Police Narcotics Command on April 3, 2001.

SPO2 Lucio Flores acted as buyer and ordered 500 grams of shabu worth P250,000 from Manimbo. They met at the Balintawak Cloverleaf in Quezon City for the exchange.

Agnes E. Donato

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PBA: Sonny Barrios was a choice ahead of Jun B.

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

YOU want to see the PBA shooting itself in the foot? Well, all you have to do is pray that the pro league picks somebody other than Sonny Barrios as its next commissioner.

No kidding. Barrios losing the race for the league commissionership would go down as the biggest upset in the history of the PBA.

There indeed are other worthy contenders.

Two of them, Elmer Yanga and Rey Gamboa, are themselves noted achievers.

But because the position at stake is not control over a pro basketball team or the presidency of an oil company, Barrios should be a natural choice.

Why? Because Renauld Barrios, as PBA executive director, has been effectively handling the coveted position, while other contenders would still grope and wonder what it was all about.

Barrios, for the record, has been a resident PBA worrier even before outgoing PBA Commissioner Jun Bernardino could assume office.

***

You obviously don't know this. But Barrios could've been PBA commissioner well ahead of Jun Bernardino.

This is not an intended dig at Bernardino, who inevitably will be lined up together with legends like Leo Prieto and Rudy Salud among the truly great leaders of the PBA.

Bernardino himself did not know this. But one very influential fellow in the PBA had confided to me that, personally, he was inclined to recommend Barrios as pro league commissioner.

This happened days before Bernardino could succeed Salud at the top post.

It's no longer necessary to bare the name of this fellow who had felt Barrios was more qualified than Bernardino.

All I could say is that he was a former PBA commissioner.

As such, he had no power and did not have a hand in the eventual selection of Bernardino, an act left solely in the hands of the members of the PBA Board of Governors.

***

Did the PBA Governors make a mistake in picking Bernardino?

Silly question to ask. If the governors had indeed been mistaken, Bernardino as PBA commissioner would go down as the happiest, most fruitful mistake in the history of the league.

Take it from my friend Quinito Henson of the Star: "Bernardino leaves the PBA with a legacy of excellence, professionalism, and integrity. He's a tough act to follow."

And, to make sure that the flow of things in the pro league doesn't get disrupted, Bernardino did not bat an eyelash and recommended Barrios to succeed him.

"He's my choice because it's only logical," Bernardino said.

***

Anyway, we bothered to recall that old secret talk to drive at the point that Barrios was already ripe and available for the commissionership before they could even find the fitting successor to Rudy Salud.

This reporter has had the chance to work with Barrios. The fellow, a sharp but very silent operator, was very systematic and articulate.

We were together when Gerry Peñalosa fought in Seoul two years ago in a bid to regain his world super flyweight boxing crown.

Barrios, upon the appointment of Rudy Salud, presided over the entire Filipino group and it would not be an exaggeration to say that, if his seconds had relied on Barrios for final-round details, Peñalosa could have succeeded in his quest.

But enough of that. The thing to ask now is if the decision makers, the men who would pick the next PBA commissioner, believe they have a better choice.

***

Bernardino has laid his cards on the table.

Meanwhile, Bernardino's living predecessors, namely Leo Prieto, Rey Marquez and Rudy Salud, have also given their seal of approval for Barrios.

Said Prieto, the league's founding commissioner: "Sonny could do a great job."

Said Marquez: "I would go for Sonny. I believe he's the natural and obvious choice."

Said Salud: "Sonny is the most qualified, he's very capable and I'm supporting him."

All told, as explained by Tito Talao of Manila Bulletin who had buttonholed the previous commissioners, "the full weight of the PBA Commissioner's Office is now behind league executive director Sonny Barrios."

But wait, cautions Rudy Salud, Barrios had definitely stepped on some "tender toes" in doing his job for the Office of the Commissioner.

There's a problem there. If those sensitive toes (belonging to certain members of the PBA Board of Governors) act up come voting time, the PBA would be in grave danger of blasting its foot.

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

More than just another gross-out comedy flick

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

AT first glance, "Sorority Boys" looks like yet another teen gross-out comedy flick. It's set on campus and is about three members of a randy frat house who are thrown out of the frat on trumped-up changes.

Desperate to find emergency lodgings, they hit upon the clever idea of dolling themselves up to pass as women, so they can room with a sorority of losers.

Aside from temporarily solving their lodging problem, their decision to cross-dress enables them to ogle at the sorority sisters in various stages of undress, a voyeuristic bonanza that they only too gladly share with all of the empathetic Peeping Toms in the audience.

So far, so predictable and mediocre. Little by little, however, the film starts to pull itself out of its randy and gross-out beginnings. It turns out that the production is also interested in scoring some thematic points that open viewers' minds, aside from tickling their funnybones.

As the three cross-dressers try to feel like women to perfect their female disguise so they don't get found out, they succeed so well that they end up empathizing with women and their sad lot as sex objects and playthings in unenlightened men's eyes.

They themselves are as unenlightened as their fraternity brothers, but as their female alter-egos are insulted and debased by the randy men they interact with, they experience a significant change of mind—and heart.

As a result of this transformation, they help their sorority sisters assert themselves and put their male oppressors in their place.

Thus, "Sorority Boys" offers not just sexy humor, but food for thought as well. That's a pleasant surprise that makes this movie an upbeat viewing experience.

Films on Cinemax

SOME interesting movies are showing on the Cinemax Channel in August: Thursday, Aug. 1 at 10 a.m., "Stand and Deliver." 2:30 a.m., "The Glenn Miller Story." 4:30 a.m., "Angels Among Us." Friday, Aug. 2 at 9:30 a.m., "Gossip." 7:15 p.m., "The Whole Nine Yards."

Saturday, Aug. 3 at 8 a.m., "Cry Freedom." 12:30 p.m., "Beetlejuice." 9 p.m., "Joan of Arc." 2:45 a.m., "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas." Sunday, Aug. 4 at 12 noon, "American History X." 2 p.m., "Project Greenlight 3: The Dilemma of Experience." 10:30 p.m., "The Green Mile."

Monday, Aug. 5 at 8:30 p.m,. "Project Greenlight 4: Don't Be Alarmed By This Menu." 3:15 a.m., "Where Are My Children." Tuesday, Aug. 6 at 1:30 p.m., "Cinema Secrets 12: Snap Shot." 2 p.m., "Riders of the Purple Sage." Wednesday, Aug. 7 at 7 p.m,. "Cinema Secrets 13: Hostile Takeovers."

Feedback

FROM **Jay G. Orobe** of Cebu City: "Even here, piracy of records and movies is rampant, bleeding legitimate producers dry. If this keeps up, they will stop producing and everybody will suffer.

"To solve the piracy problem, there must be a concerted effort by all of the parties involved. Conducting raids is good, but it has to be matched by lowering further the price of legitimate tapes and discs to make them more affordable, so people will stop buying the pirated stuff.

"The penalties and prison terms for pirates also need to be beefed up. But, above all, the people caught and charged must not stop with the small fries, the vendors, but include the financiers and manufacturers of the pirated materials themselves. These people are powerful and influential, so the anti-piracy forces have to be brave and graduate from the '*ningas cogon*' mentality."

Viva's divas

THE female singing stars of Viva Records are showcased in the compilation album, "Live," featuring choice numbers from the divas' biggest concerts:

Sharon Cuneta with "Sunlight," **Regine Velasquez** with "Tuwing Umuulan," **Pops Fernandez** with "When You Say Nothing At All," **Jaya** with a medley of her top hits, **Zsa Zsa Padilla** with "We're All Alone," and **Lani Misalucha** with "You Don't Have to Say You Love Me."

Other cuts feature **Janno Gibbs** and Freestyle, plus medleys of popular tunes. And Janno Gibbs and **Ogie Alcasid** cap the compilation with a medley of current favorites.

Side A at The Venue

DAVAO City's The Venue showplace will feature the Side A band in a concert on Saturday, Aug. 3, one of the highlights of the "Kadayawan Special" event.

This is the popular band's first time to perform at The Venue. Side A is made up of **Joey Generoso**, **Ernie Severino**, **Naldy Gonzales**, **Kelly Badon** and **Joey Benin**.

Freestyle does Ratsky's

THE FREESTYLE band performs at Ratsky's on Tomas Morato in Quezon City tonight.

In the show called "Freestyle at Ratsky's," the band will sing their own hits, such as their version of "Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang" and their own "Let's Take it Slow" and "Before I Let You Go," as well as covers of chart toppers.

Freestyle is just one of the talents featured in Live Artists Production shows. Live Artists will also feature Zsa Zsa Padilla at Casino Filipino Parañaque on Aug. 2, Casino Filipino Tagaytay on Aug. 17 and Casino Filipino Mimosa on Aug. 23.

The Freestyle show is presented by Mossimo, Master Facial Cleanser, Ambi Pure Car, Block & White, Timex, Manila Bulletin, Pearl of the Pacific in Boracay and Nestle's La Cremaria. For tickets, call 920-2643 or (0918) 923-9825.

FREESTYLE

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

MEN IN BLACK 2 P 13 11:45, 1:45, 3:45, 5:45, 7:45, 9:45	WINDTALKERS P 13 1:10, 3:50, 6:30, 9:10	STUART LITTLE 2 GP 12:30, 2:20, 4:10, 6:00, 7:50, 9:40
ANG GALING GALING MO BABES - R 18 1:45, 4:10, 6:45, 9:30	SORORITY BOYS R 18 1:30, 3:35, 5:40, 7:45, 9:50	WINDTALKERS P 13 11:30, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10

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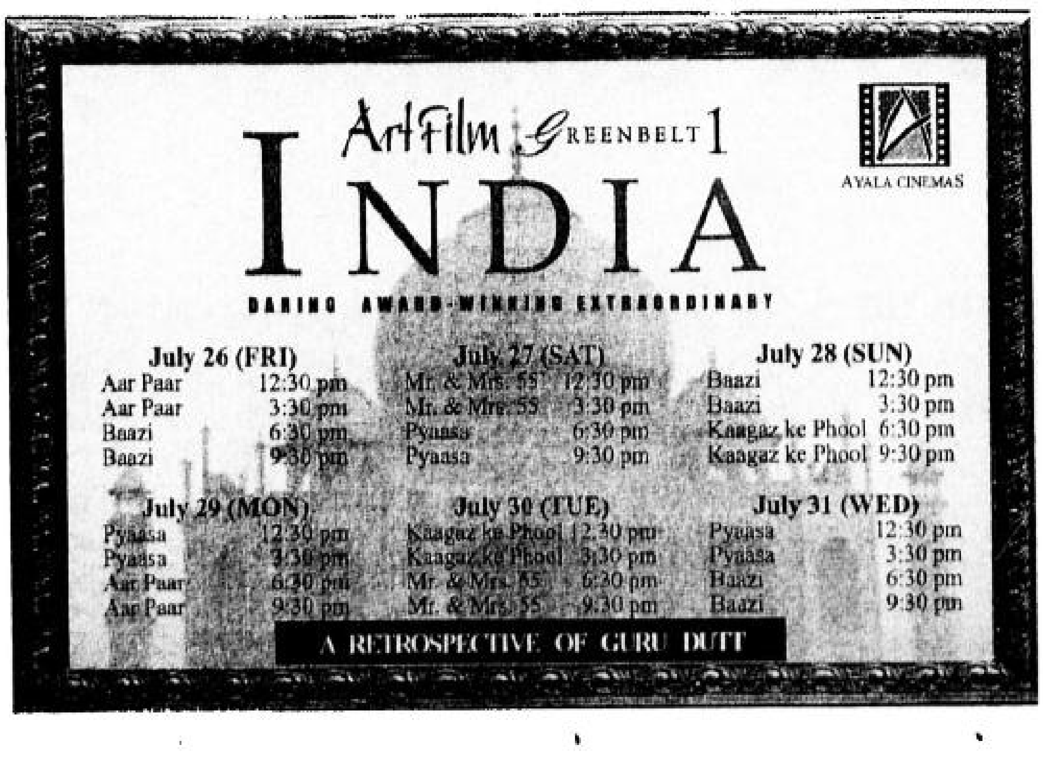

ArtFilm Greenbelt 1
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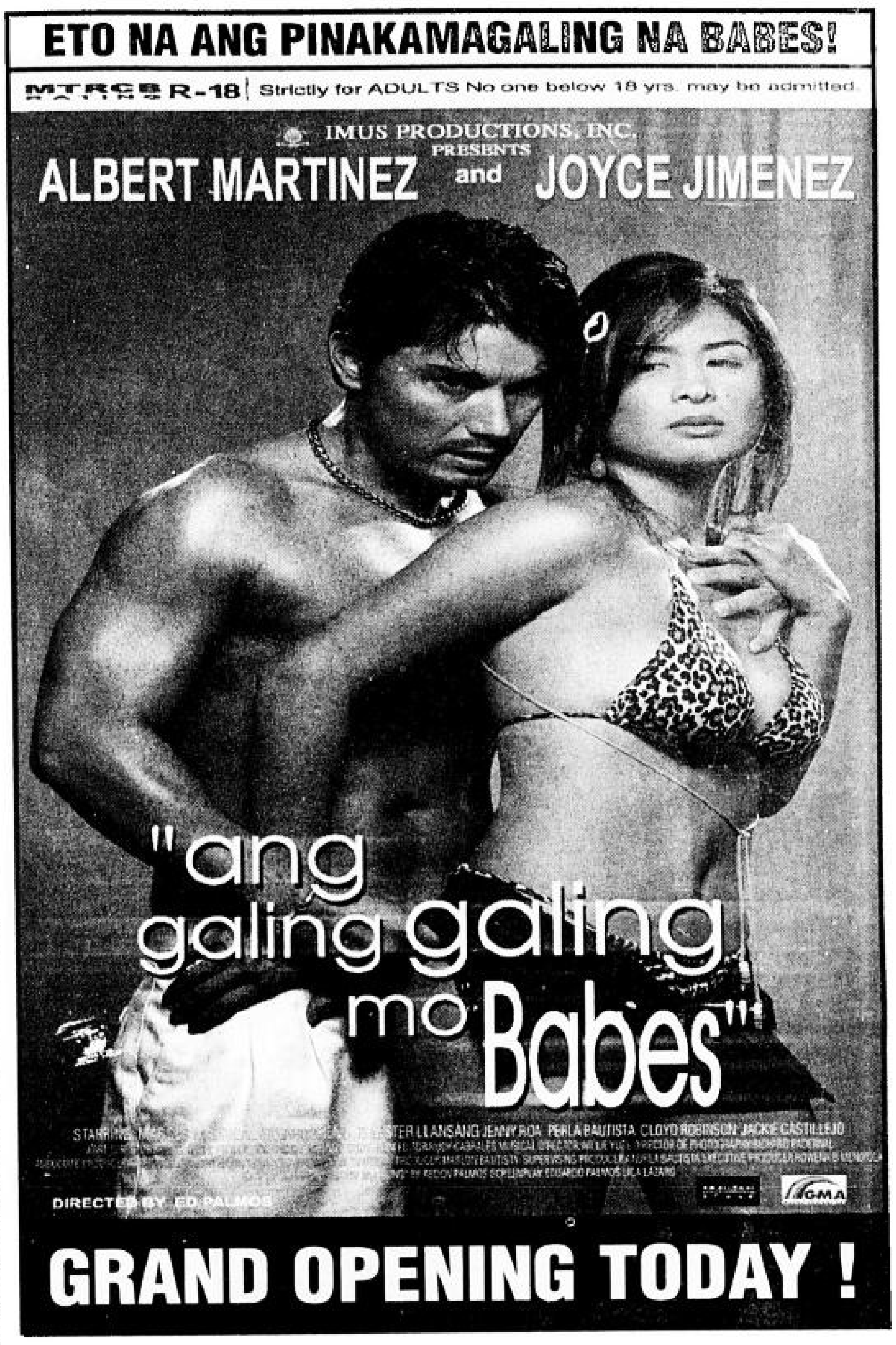
INDIA
DARING AWARD-WINNING EXTRAORDINARY

July 26 (FRI)		July 27 (SAT)		July 28 (SUN)	
Aar Paar	12:30 pm	Mr. & Mrs. 55	12:30 pm	Baazi	12:30 pm
Aar Paar	3:30 pm	Mr. & Mrs. 55	3:30 pm	Baazi	3:30 pm
Baazi	6:30 pm	Pyaasa	6:30 pm	Kaagaz ke Phool	6:30 pm
Baazi	9:30 pm	Pyaasa	9:30 pm	Kaagaz ke Phool	9:30 pm
July 29 (MON)		July 30 (TUE)		July 31 (WED)	
Pyaasa	12:30 pm	Kaagaz ke Phool	12:30 pm	Pyaasa	12:30 pm
Pyaasa	3:30 pm	Kaagaz ke Phool	3:30 pm	Pyaasa	3:30 pm
Aar Paar	6:30 pm	Mr. & Mrs. 55	6:30 pm	Baazi	6:30 pm
Aar Paar	9:30 pm	Mr. & Mrs. 55	9:30 pm	Baazi	9:30 pm

A RETROSPECTIVE OF GURU DUTT



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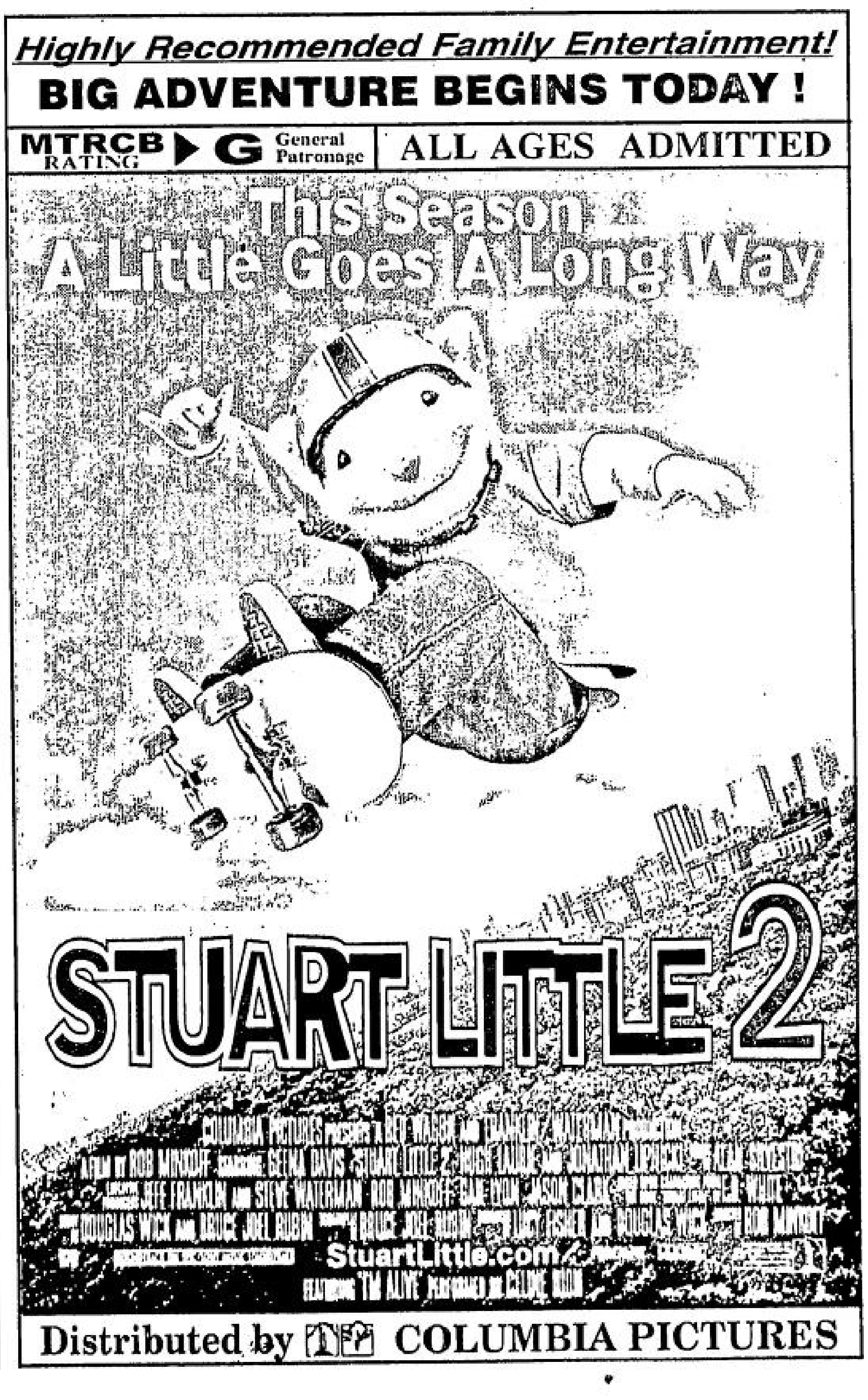

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P 13
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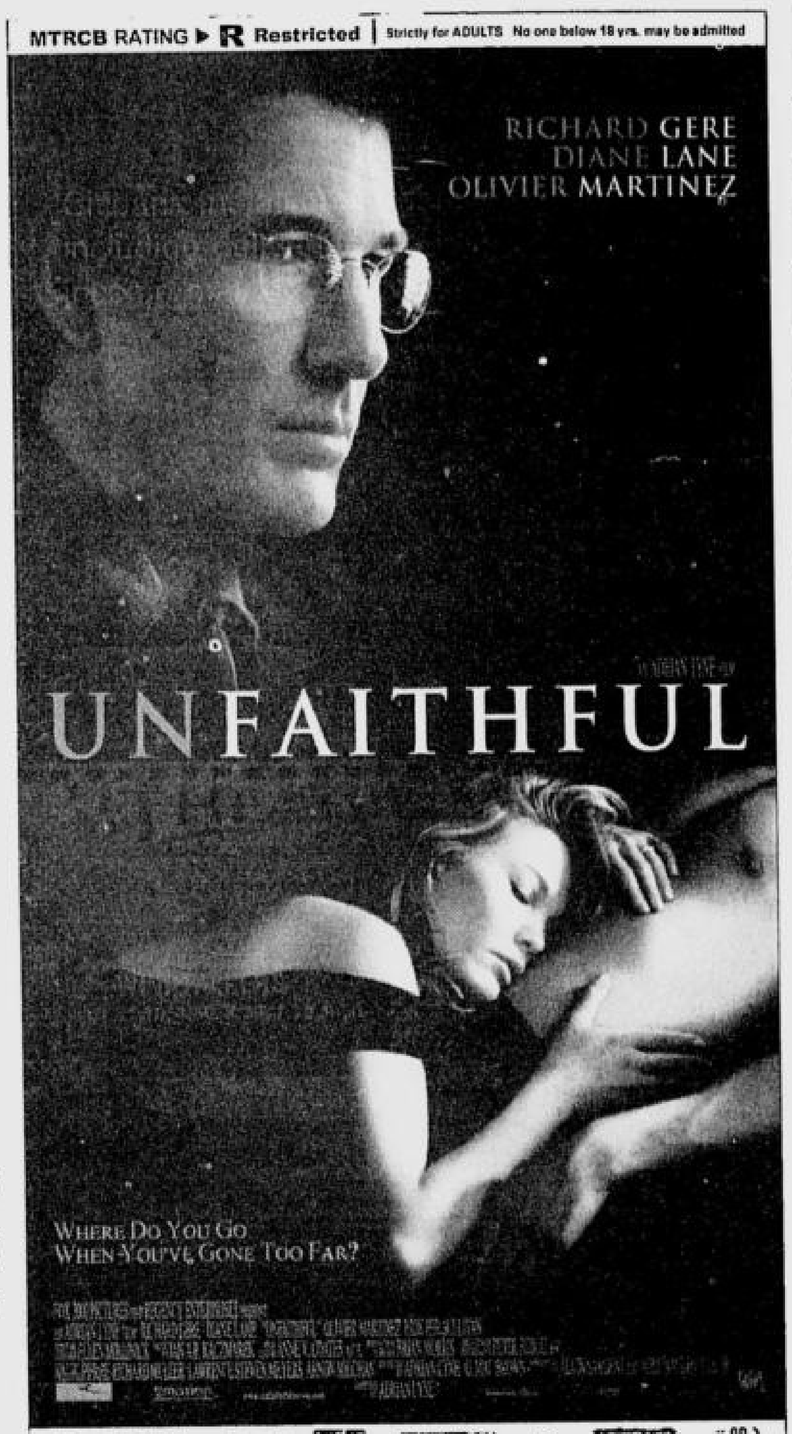

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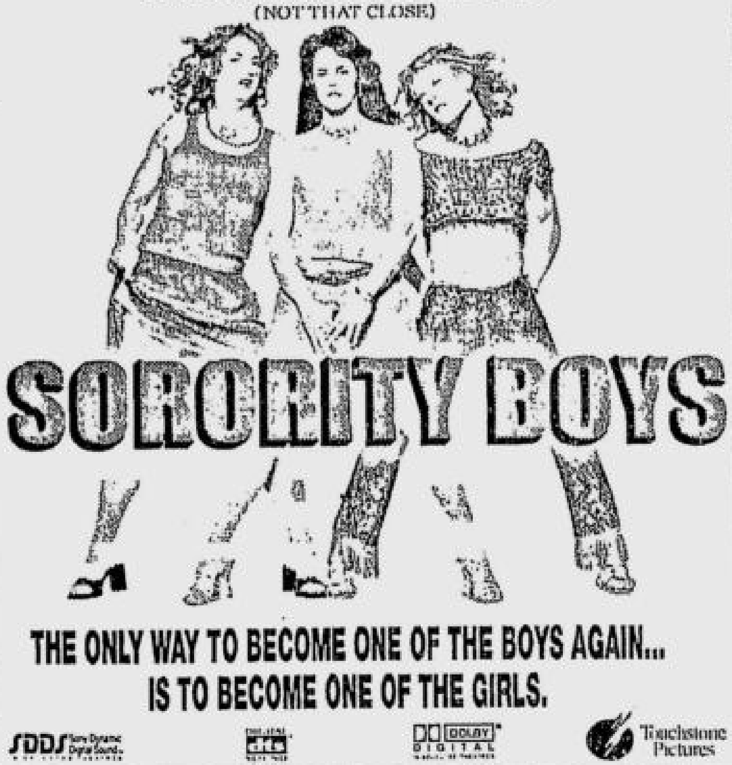

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Elvis classic's remix released for his 25th death anniversary

ELVIS Presley may have been gone for 25 years, but his timeless music never fails to astound listeners to this day.

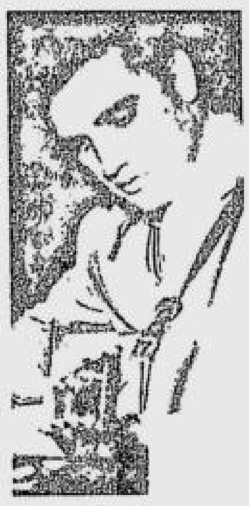
In celebration of the 25th death anniversary of the king of rock n' roll, BMG Records releases the first modern remix of a Presley classic, " A Little Less Conversation," originally recorded in 1968.

The drum and bass mix by Amsterdam-based progressive DJ Tom Holkenborg (a.k.a. JXL), landed on the UK Top 40 singles chart at number one last month, making Elvis the artist with the most number one hits in Britain.

The excitement continues to build up with the release of "Elvis 2002," the much anticipated album of Elvis' 30 number one hits.

"A Little Less Conversation" is now available

For the latest update about Presley, visit www.elvis.com or www.elvisnumberones.com.


PRESLEY

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	ANG GALING GALING MO BABES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	PAKISABI NA LANG
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	WIND TALKERS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	STUART LITTLE 2
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	MEN IN BLACK 2
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	MEGIDDO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	SORORITY BOYS
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	WINDTALKERS
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	ANG GALING GALING MO BABES
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	LIGAYA, PANTASYA NG BAYAN/ SENSUAL FEELING
ODEON	WINDTALKERS
ODEON-2	KILABOT AT KEMBOT / WE WERE SOLDIER
ROBEN	ANG GALING GALING MO BABES
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO / DEVILS MASK
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	ANG GALING GALING MO BABES
REMAR	ANG GALING GALING MO BABES
REMAR-2	WINDTALKERS
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	ANG GALING GALING MO BABES
B	
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 , 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	WINDTALKERS
CINEMA-2	STUART LITTLE 2
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	DOG SOLDIER
CINEMA-2	GAWIN SA DILIM
CINEMA-3	MEN IN BLACK 2
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	WINDTALKERS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	MEGIDDO
CINEMA-6	HIYAS SA PARAISO
CINEMA-7	SELDA
CINEMA-8	SORORITY BOYS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	WINDTALKERS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	WINDTALKERS
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	STUART LITTLE 2
CINEMA-12	STUART LITTLE 2
CINEMA-14	PAKISABI NA LANG . . .
CINEMA-15	ANG GALING GALING MO BABES
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	MEN IN BLACK 2
CINEMA-2	WINDTALKERS
CINEMA-3	STUART LITTLE 2
CINEMA-4	ANG GALING GALING MO BABES
CINEMA-5	SORORITY BOYS
CINEMA-6	WINDTALKERS
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

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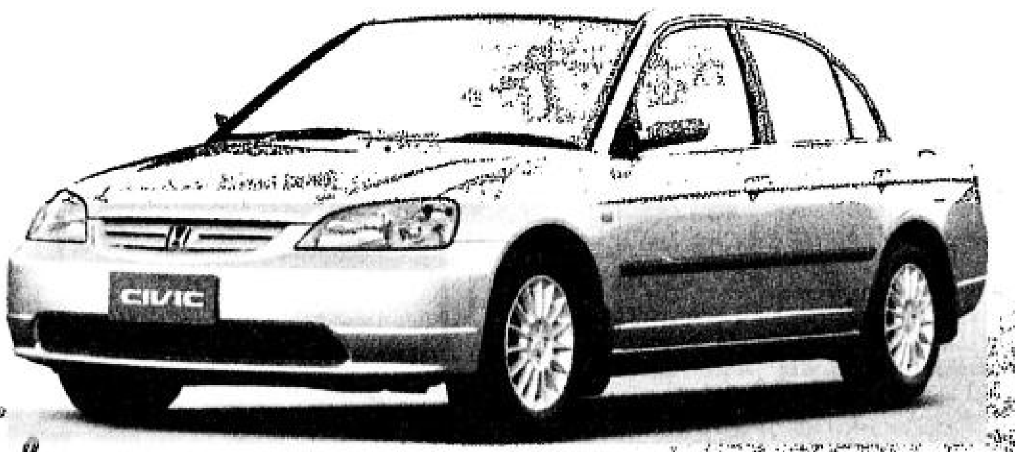

Weekly Winners of Sony Ericsson T68 cellphones

June 9-15	**Dee Harvey Herrera**
June 16-22	**Edgar Sia II**
June 23-29	**Andres Roque**
June 30-July 6	**John Holaysan**

Daily Winners of Nokia 3350 cellphones

June 9, 2002	**Enrico Evangelista**
June 10, 2002	**Rod Michael Manabat**
June 11, 2002	**Dee Harvey Herrera**
June 12, 2002	**Raul Tomas**
June 13, 2002	**Hubert Tai**
June 14, 2002	**Prose Marie Joy M. Siguenza**
June 15, 2002	**Andres Roque**
June 16, 2002	**Edgar Sia II**
June 17, 2002	**Ronaldo S. Santos**
June 18, 2002	**Jonathan Ortega**
June 19, 2002	**Vic Romao**
June 20, 2002	**Edgar Tagulao**
June 21, 2002	**Danilo Blasabas**
June 22, 2002	**Cynthia Apolonio**
June 23, 2002	**Wolf Lambsdorff**
June 24, 2002	**Gian Carlo Domingo**
June 25, 2002	**Lorna Elopre**
June 26, 2002	**John Holaysan**
June 27, 2002	**William M. Hernandez**
June 28, 2002	**Eon Tiu**
June 29, 2002	**Kyrios Onio**
June 30, 2002	**Jun Umali**
July 1, 2002	**Marc Jackson Go**
July 2, 2002	**Vilma Ramos**
July 3, 2002	**Helen Grace Cagadas**
July 4, 2002	**Eznar Hernandez**
July 5, 2002	**Joel Taladua**
July 6, 2002	**Elenita Apostol**
July 7, 2002	**Joseph Tanpoco**
July 8, 2002	**Erwin Ngo**

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G1 GLORIETTA 1

1	WINDTALKERS
2	STUART LITTLE 2
3	PAKISABI NA LANG MAHAL KO SIYA
4	ANG GALING GALING MO BABES

G4 GLORIETTA 4

1	MEN IN BLACK 2
2	WINDTALKERS
3	WINDTALKERS 1:30, 2:15, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30
4	MEGIDDO
5	SORORITY BOYS
6	STUART LITTLE 2
7	ANG GALING GALING MO BABES

GB1 GREENBELT 1

1	A RETROSPECTIVE OF GURO DUTT
2	THE YIN-YANG MASTER

RICO J. PUNO IN SOMETHING WONDERFUL AUG. 16 - 9:00 PM

GB3 GREENBELT 3

1	STUART LITTLE 2 12:20, 2:10, 4:00, 5:50, 8:35, 11:20
2	WINDTALKERS 12:20, 3:05, 5:50, 8:35, 11:20
3	AMELIE 1:00, 3:35, 6:10, 8:45, 11:20
4	MEN IN BLACK 2 11:20, 1:20, 3:20, 5:20 7:20, 9:20, 11:20
5	SORORITY BOYS 11:20, 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20, 11:20

ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1	WINDTALKERS
2	WINDTALKERS
3	STUART LITTLE 2
4	ANG GALING GALING MO BABES
5	MEN IN BLACK 2

Reserve your seats by texting "SURESEATS G4 (or any Ayala Cinemas) and send to 2333. Or log on to www.sureseats.com
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1 (DDS)	MEN IN BLACK 2
2 (SDDS)	STUART LITTLE 2
3 (DTS)	WINDTALKERS
4 GOLD (DTS)	WINDTALKERS
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	STUART LITTLE 2
6 GOLD (SDDS)	SORORITY BOYS
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	WINDTALKERS
8	GALING MO BABES
9	PAKISABI NA LANG . . .
10	MEGIDDO

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	
2	
3 (DTS)	
4	
5	
6 (DTS)	
Golden Pearl THX	

Masagana CINEMA
TEL. 551 63 87

1	PAKISABI NA LANG . .
2	WINDTALKERS
3	GALING MO BABES

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	STUART LITTLE 2
2	MEGIDDO
3	PAKISABI NA LANG . .
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	WINDTALKERS
5	GALING MO BABES

METROPOLIS star
tel 850.4285

1	MEGIDDO
2	HIYAS
3	GALING MO BABES
4	PAKISABI NA LANG . . .
5	STUART LITTLE 2
6	WINDTALKERS
7	
8	

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) TEL. 751-2010 TO 13

1	WINDTALKERS

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	MEN IN BLACK 2
2	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515

1	
2	GALING MO BABES
3	

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	
A	

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	PAKISABI NA LANG .
2	
3	
4	

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	WINDTALKERS
2	
3	
4	MEN IN BLACK 2
5	PAKISABI NA LANG . . .
6	GALING MO BABES
7 (DTS)	WINDTALKERS
8 (SDDS)	STUART LITTLE 2
9 (DOLBY)	SORORITY BOYS

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	PAKISABI NA LANG . .
2	GALING MO BABES
3	MEN IN BLACK 2
4 (SDDS)	RESERVE
5	WINDTALKERS
6 (DOLBY)	STUART LITTLE 2
7 (DTS)	WINDTALKERS
8	KATAWAN MO . . .
9	MEGIDDO

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	
2	
3	
4	GALING MO BABES
5 (SDDS)	STUART LITTLE 2
6	WINDTALKERS
7 (DOLBY)	WINDTALKERS
8	PAKISABI NA LANG . . .

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	GALING MO BABES
2	STUART LITTLE 2
3 (DTS)	WINDTALKERS
4	PAKISABI NA LANG . . .
5 (SDDS)	WINDTALKERS

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	PAKISABI NA LANG . . .

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	PAKISABI NA LANG

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	GALING MO BABES
Lords	PORNOGRAPHER
Jennet	

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	PAKISABI NA LANG . . .
2	GALING MO BABES
3	WINDTALKERS

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	WINDTALKERS
2	GALING MO BABES
3	RESERVE
4	PAKISABI NA LANG . .
5	STUART LITTLE 2

New Divisoria Mall DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	

FRC Cinema
Talaba Bacoor Cavite

1	
2	

Berma
TEL. 879 21 68 / 879 21 67

1	WINDTALKERS
2	GALING MO BABES

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	
2	

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna) tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	PAKISABI NA LANG . . .
2	GALING MO BABES
3 (DTS)	STUART LITTLE 2

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	PAKISABI NA LANG . . .
2 (DTS)	GALING MO BABES
3 (DOLBY)	WINDTALKERS
4	STUART LITTLE 2

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	PAKISABI NA LANG . . .
2 (DOLBY)	STUART LITTLE 2
3 (DTS)	WINDTALKERS
4	GALING MO BABES

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	PAKISABI NA LANG
2	
3	
4	

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1	PAKISABI NA LANG . .
2	CASS & CARY
3 (DOLBY)	PETER PAN
4 (DTS)	HIGH CRIMES

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	WINDTALKERS
2	LOVE ME TENDER
3	HIYAS
4 (DTS)	GALING MO BABES

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	WINDTALKERS
2	PAKISABI NA LANG . .
3 (DTS)	STUART LITTLE 2
4	GALING MO BABES
5	JIHAD WARRIOR

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	PAKISABI NA LANG . .
2	STUART LITTLE 2
3	GALING MO BABES

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249-2558

1	WINDTALKERS
2	STUART LITTLE 2
3	PAKISABI NA LANG . . .

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	GALING MO BABES
2 (DTS)	RESERVE

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	CLOSED

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	DOG SOLDIERS
2	PAKISABI NA LANG . . .
3	MEN IN BLACK 2

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	DOG SOLDIERS
2	WINDTALKERS
3	PAKISABI NA LANG . .
4	DRAGONFLY

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	STUART LITTLE 2
2	GALING MO BABES
3 (DTS)	WINDTALKERS
4	DOG SOLDIERS

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1	DOG SOLDIERS
2	MEGIDDO
3	WINDTALKERS
4	GALING MO BABES
5	STUART LITTLE 2
6	PAKISABI NA LANG . . .
7	MEN IN BLACK 2
8	SORORITY BOYS

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7181416

1	PAKISABI NA LANG . . .
2	MEGIDDO
3	WINDTALKERS
4	SORORITY BOYS
5	STUART LITTLE 2
6	DOG SOLDIERS
7	MEN IN BLACK 2
8	WINDTALKERS
9	GALING MO BABES
10	MINORITY REPORT

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9360749

1	GALING MO BABES
2	MEN IN BLACK 2
3	MEGIDDO
4	WINDTALKERS
5	STUART LITTLE 2
6	PAKISABI NA LANG . . .
7	WINDTALKERS
8	SORORITY BOYS
9	DOG SOLDIERS
10	FOREVERMORE
11	MINORITY REPORT
12	GALING MO BABES

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1	STUART LITTLE 2
2	WINDTALKERS
3	THIRD WHEEL
4	MEGIDDO
5	MEN IN BLACK 2
6	WINDTALKERS
7	SORORITY BOYS
8	DOG SOLDIERS
9	PAKISABI NA LANG . . .
10	MINORITY REPORT
11	HIGH CRIMES
12	GALING MO BABES

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1	WINDTALKERS
2	SORORITY BOYS
3	MEN IN BLACK 2
4	WINDTALKERS
5	DOG SOLDIERS
6	MINORITY REPORT
7	SUM OF ALL FEARS
8	HIGH CRIMES
9	GALING MO BABES
10	STUART LITTLE 2
11	PAKISABI NA LANG . . .
12	MEGIDDO

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9296452

1	MEGIDDO
2	PAKISABI NA LANG . . .
3	SORORITY BOYS
4	GALING MO BABES
5	DOG SOLDIERS
6	MEN IN BLACK 2
7	WINDTALKERS
8	STUART LITTLE 2

SM SOUTHMALL
8066888

1	SORORITY BOYS
2	MEGIDDO
3	WINDTALKERS
4	GALING MO BABES
5	KAPALIT
6	DOG SOLDIERS
7	PAKISABI NA LANG . . .
8	STUART LITTLE 2
9	WINDTALKERS
10	MEN IN BLACK 2

SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1	WINDTALKERS
2	MEN IN BLACK 2
3	A WALK TO REMEMBER
4	JUST VISITING
5	PAKISABI NA LANG . . .
6	CROSSROADS
7	GALING MO BABES
8	WINDTALKERS

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1	SUGAT
2	CLOSED
3	A WALK TO REMEMBER
4	WINDTALKERS
5	PAKISABI NA LANG . . .
6	MEN IN BLACK 2
7	CLOSED
8	WINDTALKERS

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1	GALING MO BABES
2	WINDTALKERS
3	DOG SOLDIERS
4	MEN IN BLACK 2
5	STUART LITTLE 2
6	PAKI SABI NA LANG . . .

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1	PAKISABI NA LANG . . .
2	WINDTALKERS
3	STUART LITTLE 2
4	GALING MO BABES

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1	WINDTALKERS
2	STUART LITTLE 2
3	GALING MO BABES
4	PAKISABI NA LANG . . .

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

1	WINDTALKERS
2	PAKISABI NA LANG . . .
3	THIRD WHEEL
4	SLACKERS
5	WINDTALKERS
6	MEN IN BLACK 2

SM BICUTAN

1
2
3
4

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4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

1
2
3
4

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THE PODIUM CINEMA
18 ADB Avenue Ortigas Center Mandaluyong City
6369781-85 loc 120

1	WINDTALKERS 11:30 FS / 12:00 MF / 2:45 / 5:30 / 8:15 / 10:30 LFS / 11:00 LMF / 1:15 END
2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

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Galleria
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633- 7641 loc. 279

1 THX	WINDTALKERS
2	WINDTALKERS
3	SORORITY BOYS
4	MEN IN BLACK 2
5	STUART LITTLE 2
6	WINDTALKERS
7	MEGIDDO
8	STUART LITTLE 2
9	PAKISABI NA LANG . . .
10	GALING MO BABES

Ermita
536 -7809- 12

1	WINDTALKERS
2	MEN IN BLACK 2
3	PAKISABI NA LANG . . .
4	SORORITY BOYS
5	GALING MO BABES
6	STUART LITTLE 2
7	MEGIDDO

Metro East -
Marcos hway 682- 8193 / 8280

1	MEN IN BLACK 2
2	WINDTALKERS
3	MEGIDDO
4	STUART LITTLE 2
5	GALING MO BABES
6	PAKISABI NA LANG . . .
7	WINDTALKERS
8	SORORITY BOYS

Novaliches
935- 3279 - 30

1	WINDTALKERS
2	WINDTALKERS
3	PAKISABI NA LANG . . .
4	SORORITY BOYS
5	STUART LITTLE 2
6	MEN IN BLACK 2
7	GALING MO BABES
8	MEGIDDO

Imus
471- 8188 / 875- 3838

1	WINDTALKERS
2	PAKISABI NA LANG . . .
3	MEGIDDO
4	STUART LITTLE 2
5	MEN IN BLACK 2
6	GALING MO BABES

Bacolod
441- 0453 / 0459

1	WINDTALKERS
2	LEGEND OF TITANIC
3	A WALK TO REMEMBER
4	MEN IN BLACK 2
5	SORORITY BOYS
6	KAPALIT

Iloilo
336- 8077 - 78

1	WINDTALKERS
2	SORORITY BOYS
3	A WALK TO REMEMBER
4	PAKISABI NA LANG . . .
5	MEN IN BLACK 2
6	WINDTALKERS

Star Mills-
Sn. Fernando, Pamp. 875- 1927
961-5318 / 5270

1	PAKISABI NA LANG
2	WINDTALKERS
3	GALING MO BABES
4	STUART LITTLE 2
5	WINDTALKERS
6	RESERVED

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MORALES. Sings 10 sentimental love songs.

Vina releases latest album

VINA Morales comes out with a new album, "Reflections," under EMI-Philippines.

The CD contains 10 tracks of love songs for sentimental listeners.

It opens with "Aangkin sa Puso Ko," one of Vina's personal favorites. It's a song that speaks of a woman yearning for her man to conquer her heart.

The ballad is reminiscent of Sharon Cuneta's immortal OPM classics, with floating and soaring melodies, just the way people like them.

Gary Valenciano duets with Vina in "Sana'y Dumating Ka," a piece that speaks of a longing to find the one you love. In this cut, Vina shifts back to her good, old OPM sound and is able to show her dexterity and her range as a singer.

"Isang Halik" can be described as a sentimental jukebox fare.

"Pakiusap" is Vina's take on the rock ballad and the song brings back fond memories.

"Sana'y Ikaw Na ang Langit" is the type of song that sentimental people will listen to. It speaks of one's fear to take a chance in falling in love and getting hurt.

"Sigaw ng Puso" is another future sentimental favorite which speaks of a love that will endure. The piano accompaniment further enhances Vina's voice.

"Sige Siya ang Mahalin Mo" is another jukebox fare with traces of R&B.

The two English cuts songs in the album are "When You Found Me" and "Our Dreams."

The album package also comes with a VCD which contains a 10-minute documentary of the first and second cuts.

Pops performs in Nueva Ecija

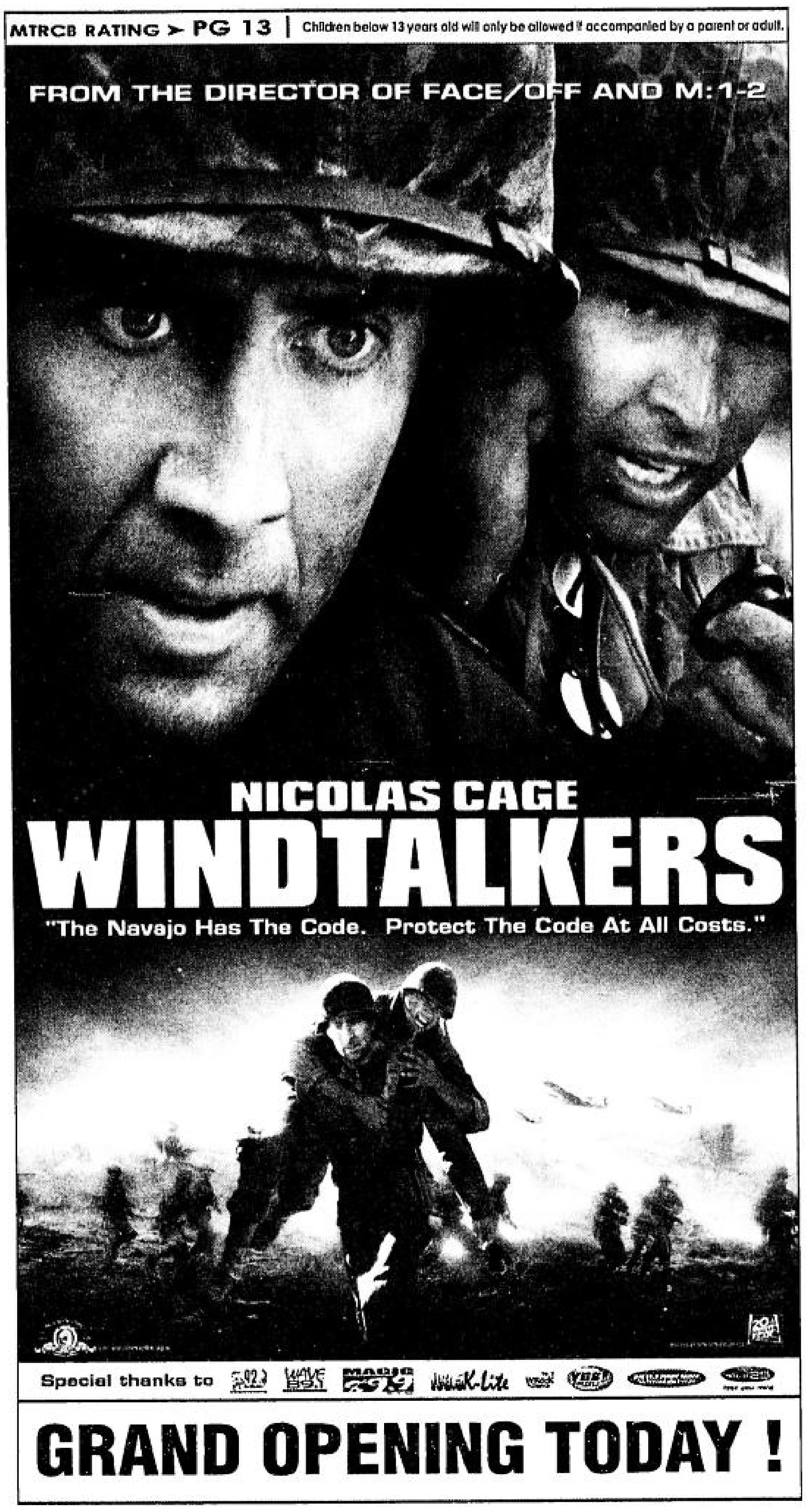
THE MEGACENTER mall in Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija, marks its fourth year with a mini-concert today featuring concert queen Pops Fernandez.

Pops will sing the latest cuts from her new album, "The Way I Feel Inside," including the carrier track, "Kaya Pala," composed by the prolific songwriting tandem of Moy Ortiz and Margot Gallardo.

Joining Pops in the show are Quickie and the Viva Beatnix Dancers.

The mini-concert will be held at 4 p.m. at the second level of Megacenter, the mall's entertainment plaza. An autograph signing follows the show.

For more information, call (044) 463-1686 or (044) 600-3688.


MTRCB RATING ➤ PG 13 | Children below 13 years old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
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NICOLAS CAGE
WINDTALKERS
"The Navajo Has The Code. Protect The Code At All Costs."
Special thanks to
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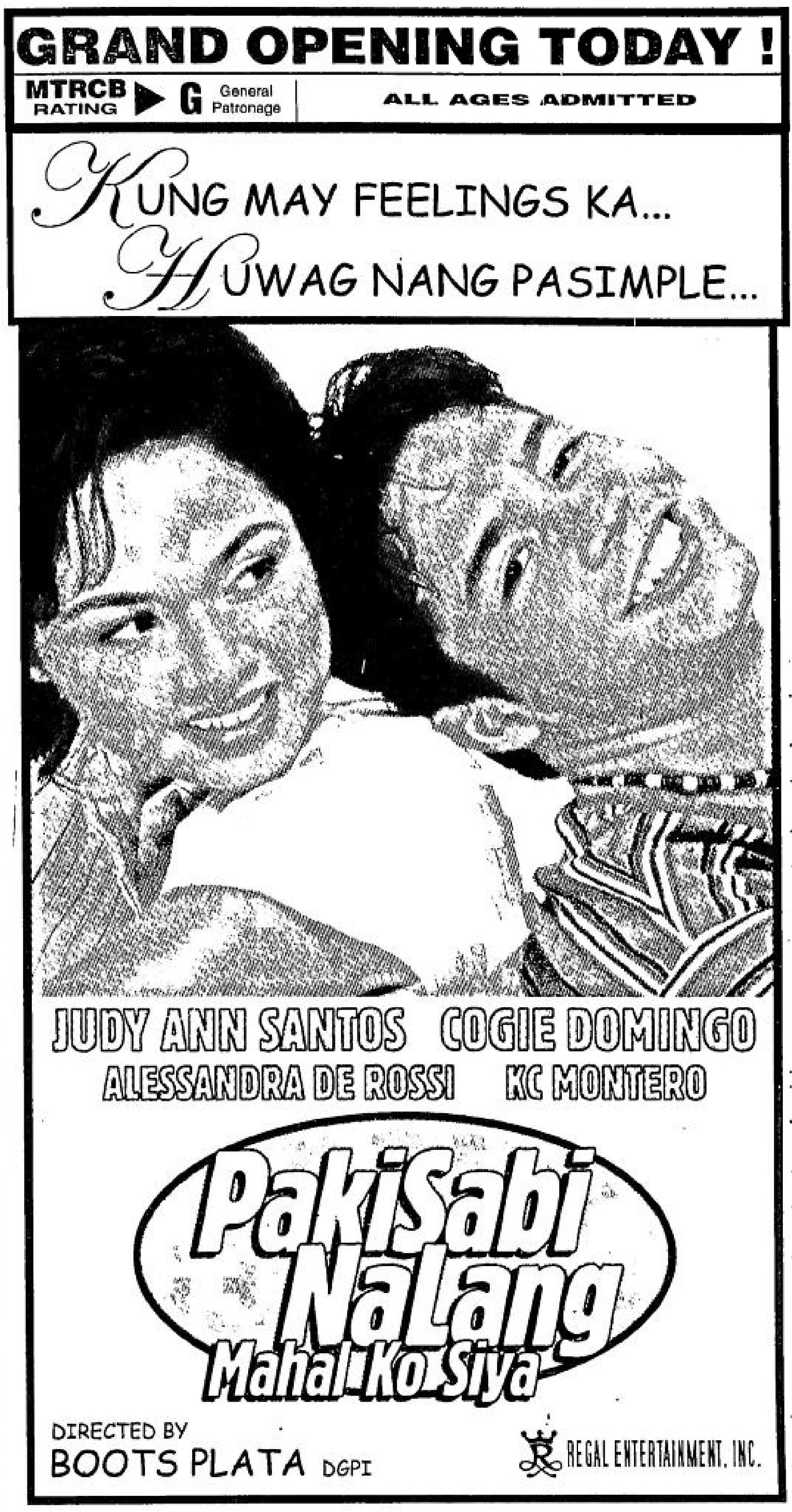
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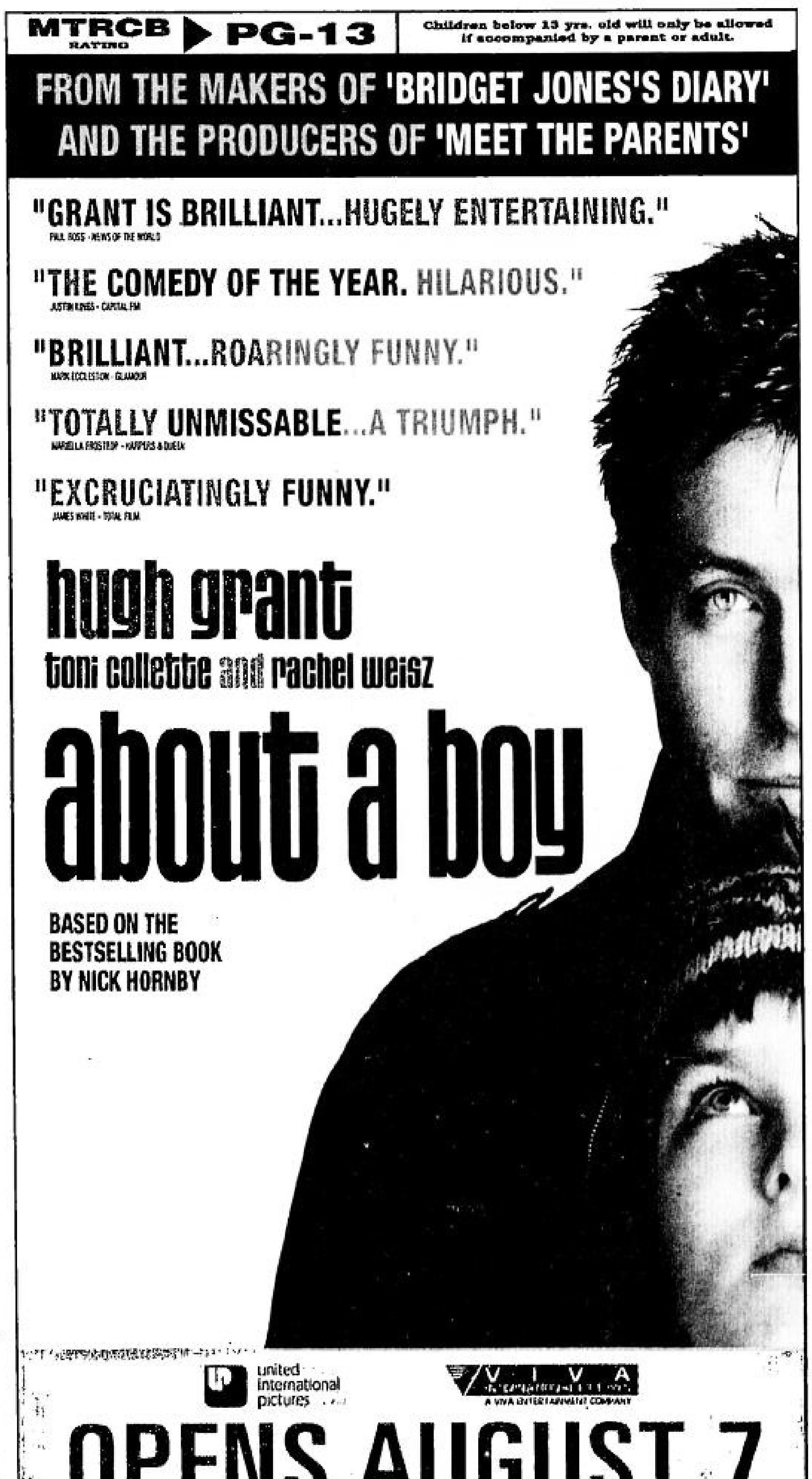
HUWAG NANG PASIMPLE...
JUDY ANN SANTOS
COGIE DOMINGO
ALESSANDRA DE ROSSI
KC MONTERO
PakiSabi Na Lang Mahal Ko Siya
DIRECTED BY BOOTS PLATA DGPI
REGAL ENTERTAINMENT, INC.


MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13
Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
FROM THE MAKERS OF 'BRIDGET JONES'S DIARY' AND THE PRODUCERS OF 'MEET THE PARENTS'
"GRANT IS BRILLIANT...HUGELY ENTERTAINING."
PAUL ROSS - NEWS OF THE WORLD
"THE COMEDY OF THE YEAR. HILARIOUS."
JUSTIN KINGS - CAPITAL FM
"BRILLIANT...ROARINGLY FUNNY."
MARK ECCLESTON - GLAMOUR
"TOTALLY UNMISSABLE...A TRIUMPH."
MARIELLA FROSTRUP - HARPERS & QUEEN
"EXCRUCIATINGLY FUNNY."
JAMES WHITE - TOTAL FILM
hugh grant
toni collette and rachel weisz
about a boy
BASED ON THE BESTSELLING BOOK BY NICK HORNBY
united international pictures
VIVA
A VIVA ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY
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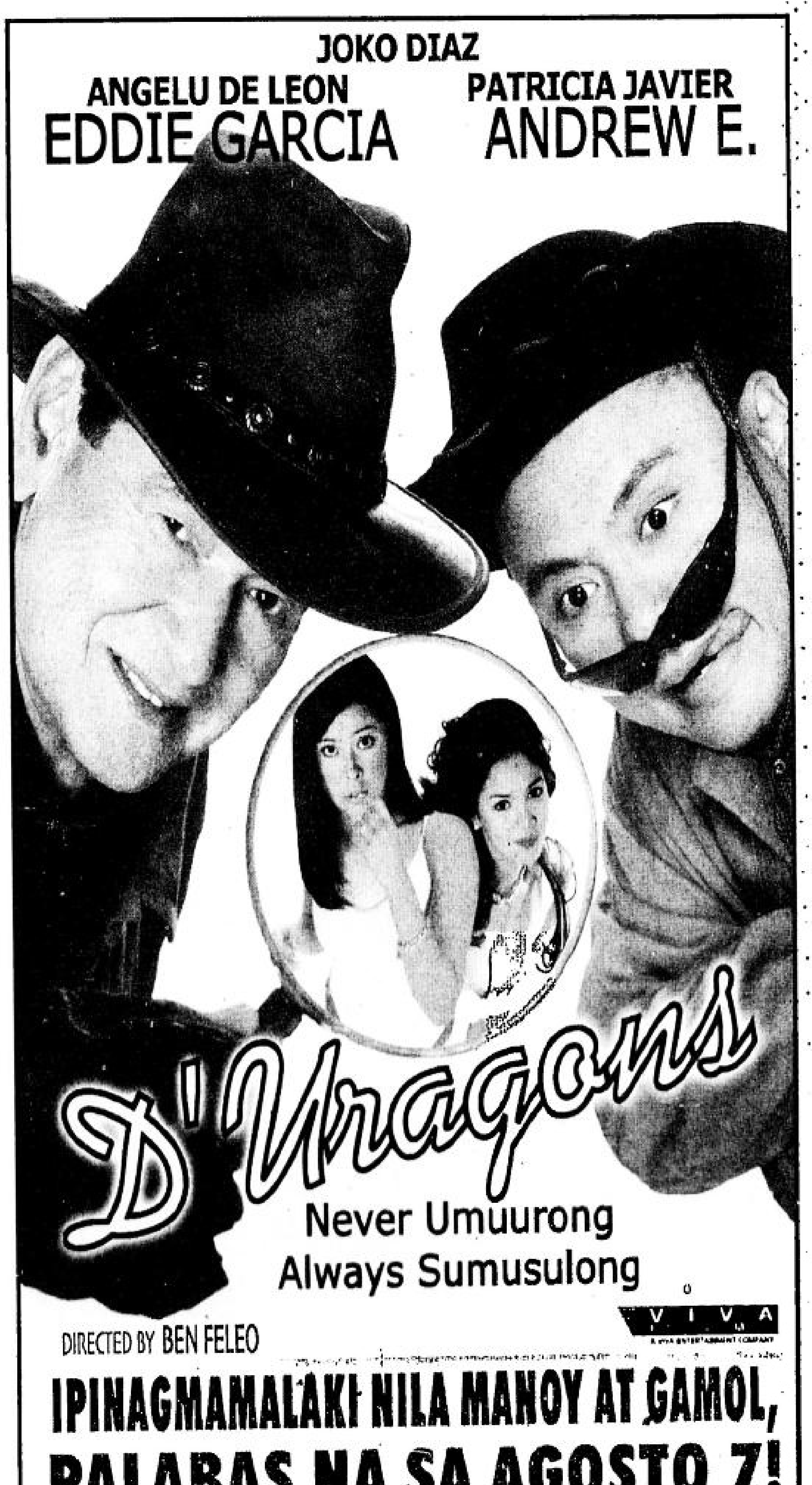
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D'Uragons
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BUSINESS

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Gov't to sell Malampaya stake this year

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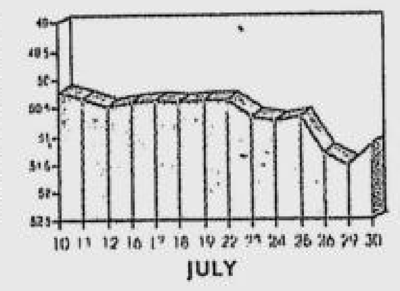


PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 51.15 = $1

As of 5 p.m., July 30, 2002

¥ 119.74 = $1

As of 5 p.m., July 30, 2002

GOLD: $304.40/304.90

per ounce Hong Kong, July 30, 2002

STOCK MARKET

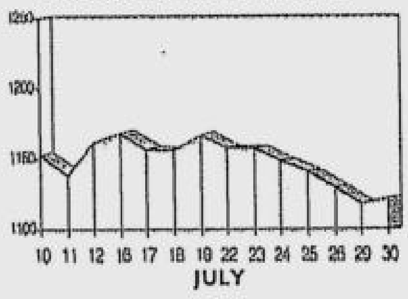
Stocks end higher

STOCKS edged higher yesterday with some bargain hunting emerging after five successive session losses, traders said.

A strengthening of the peso and the sharp overnight rebound on Wall Street helped calm frail investor nerves.

On Monday, the local market fell more than one percent, following on from last Friday's 1.04-percent slide, as fears of an overshoot in the budget deficit and Wall Street's recent slump weighed on sentiment. *Reuters*

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE MACAPAGAL administration will sell a 10-percent stake in the $2-billion Malampaya natural gas project to raise some $400 million and help finance part of its gaping budget deficit.

A ranking government official said the state-owned PNOC Exploration Co. would try to bid out its 10-percent stake in Malampaya within the year and the proceeds of the privatization would be used to help the government meet its P130-billion deficit target for 2002.

Shell Exploration B.V. and Texaco Corp. own a 45-percent stake each in the project.

The source said the government was seeking to raise between $350 million and $400 million from the transaction.

A source from PNOC, however, said financial adviser Credit Lyonnaise S.A. has yet to determine the best mode of privatization for PNOC Exploration.

The financial adviser is still evaluating whether it would be better to sell the 10-percent stake in Malampaya or for PNOC Exploration to issue secondary shares and sell this in the stock market.

The exploration arm of state-owned Philippine National Oil Co. is a dormant listed firm. The government owns 99.78 percent while public investors account for 0.22 percent.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho admitted that the sale of the Malampaya stake could help the government meet the deficit target this year but stressed that the economic team was not dependent on the proceeds to shore up revenues.

"They may be able to sell it this year but I would not want to rely on that. We have to push the collection of the BIR and the Customs because that is where the bulk of our revenues would come from," the finance chief stressed.

From the proceeds, the government would have to settle a $170-million loan from Citibank that was used to finance its acquisition of the Malampaya stake in 1999.

Discovered by Shell Exploration, the natural gas in Malampaya off northern Palawan could yield three trillion cubic feet of gas or enough to fuel up to 3,000 megawatts of electricity for 20 years.

This is equivalent to more than half of the electricity requirements of Luzon even during peak hours.

DTI softens stance on vehicle tax scheme

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry has agreed to make key revisions in its proposed tax reform for the automotive industry to make the amendments more palatable to Japanese assemblers.

An industry source said that while the DTI would still push through with its plan to shift a vehicle's tax basis from engine to value, the agency had agreed to lower the minimum excise tax rate and increase the price cap of vehicles eligible for the floor tax.

Based on ongoing discussions, the DTI was amenable to lowering the minimum excise tax rate from the proposed 3 percent and increasing the price cap pegged at P600,000. The DTI, however, wanted to ensure that the vehicles that would get the smallest taxes should be basic models with spartan features.

The move is seen as a consolation for Asian utility vehicles and other vehicles with a seating capacity of at least 10 that would lose their current tax-exempt status with the implementation of the proposed automotive tax reforms.

Japanese assemblers have vigorously opposed the DTI's decision to side with Ford Motor Co. Philippines Inc. in shifting to a value-based tax system because it would make their bread-and-butter models such as AUVs and compact sedans more expensive while giving huge tax discounts to the American automaker's bulky and gas-guzzling models.

Based on its original proposal, the DTI plans to slap a 3-percent tax on AUVs, pickups and vans worth as much as P600,000 with the rest to be levied based on their sticker prices: 10 percent for models under P1 million, 15 percent for models under P2 million, and 25 percent for vehicles worth more than P2 million. These new

DTI/ B2

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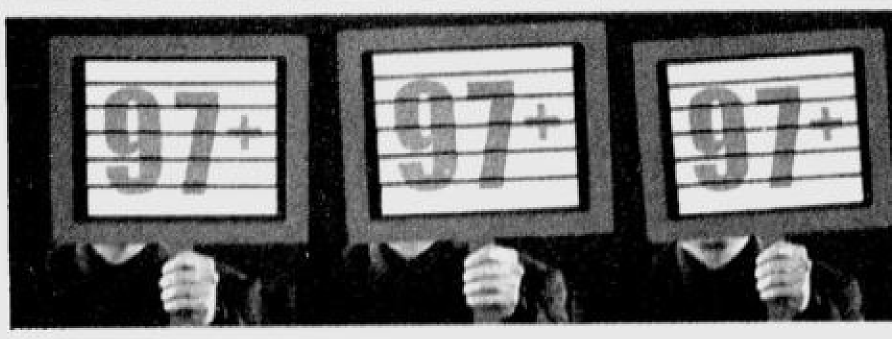

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PETRON

A minus WG

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

THE BOARDROOM squabble at the listed WG&A shipping consortium is about to be resolved. The Aboitizes are going to buy out the William and Gothong blocs.

According to the grapevine, the lawyers and the accountants are hammering out the details of the buyout agreement, but the bottom line is that the Aboitiz group has agreed to buy the WG bloc, which controls about 60 percent of the shipping consortium, for about P4 per share.

This 60 percent, plus the Aboitizes' estimated 32-percent shareholding, would make the Basque descendants the undisputed kings of the Visayan, possibly even the Philippine, seas.

The deal has apparently already filtered to the stock market, as the lightly traded WG&A stock zoomed up from its July 19 close of P2.30 to P3.30 on Monday, a 43-percent gain in just six days.

WG&A has been plagued by different, oftentimes clashing, management cultures since the three leading Cebu shipping lines agreed to merge in 1996. In addition, the three shipping lines kept their respective cargo forwarding businesses, which competed with each other.

Askance with Azcuna

FORMER PCGG chief and Senate President Jovito Salonga and ex-Justice Secretary Sedfrey Ordoñez have come out strongly against the appointment of ex-PCGG chief Adolfo Azcuna to the Supreme Court.

Salonga and Ordoñez, both colleagues of Azcuna in the Aquino Cabinet, wrote the Judicial and Bar Council to say they have documentary evidence that Azcuna had fronted during the martial law years for Benjamin "Kokoy" Romualdez in a holding company that acquired the Lopez shareholdings in the then PCI Bank "with minimum or negligible cash."

"It is very possible that in backing up Mr. Azcuna (for appointment to the Supreme Court), former President Corazon C. Aquino and former Justice Cecilia Muñoz-Palma were not aware of the existence of this documentary evidence which became known only recently," Salonga and Ordoñez said.

A second set of documents pertains to the "highly questionable" role of Azcuna that enabled the then sequestered Bulletin Today to be "sold" to Don Emilio Yap.

MVP's bad timing

SHORTLY before the announcement of the Gokongwei-Salim deal on PLDT-Fort Boni, PLDT president Manuel V. Pangilinan bought 10,000 shares of PLDT from the stock market.

MVP, as executive chair of PLDT controlling shareholder First Pacific Co., disclosed the acquisition to the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, but apparently not to the Philippine Stock Exchange. The Hong Kong bourse apparently has more stringent disclosure rules than Manila's.

The First Pacific line is that MVP had engaged in a bit of insider trading, a line hard to swallow since, after that May 16 acquisition, MVP actually lost money as PLDT has been trading steadily down.

(PLDT closed May 16, when MVP bought in, at P442.50; yesterday, PLDT was trading at P310, down P132.50 since. That means MVP's paper losses now amount to about P1.325 million, excluding broker's commission and taxes.)

If the transaction were effected in Wall Street, where the so-called short-swing prohibition is in effect, then the parent company just might have a case.

Heard through the grapevine

ILOILO Rep. Rolex Suplico, the root cause of the Kimberly-Clark problems in the country, and his family (the Makati-based, not the Iloilo-based) are having trouble getting visas to the United States, apparently after the US multinational decided to hit back at their congressional tormentor. (*Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)*

DTI . . .

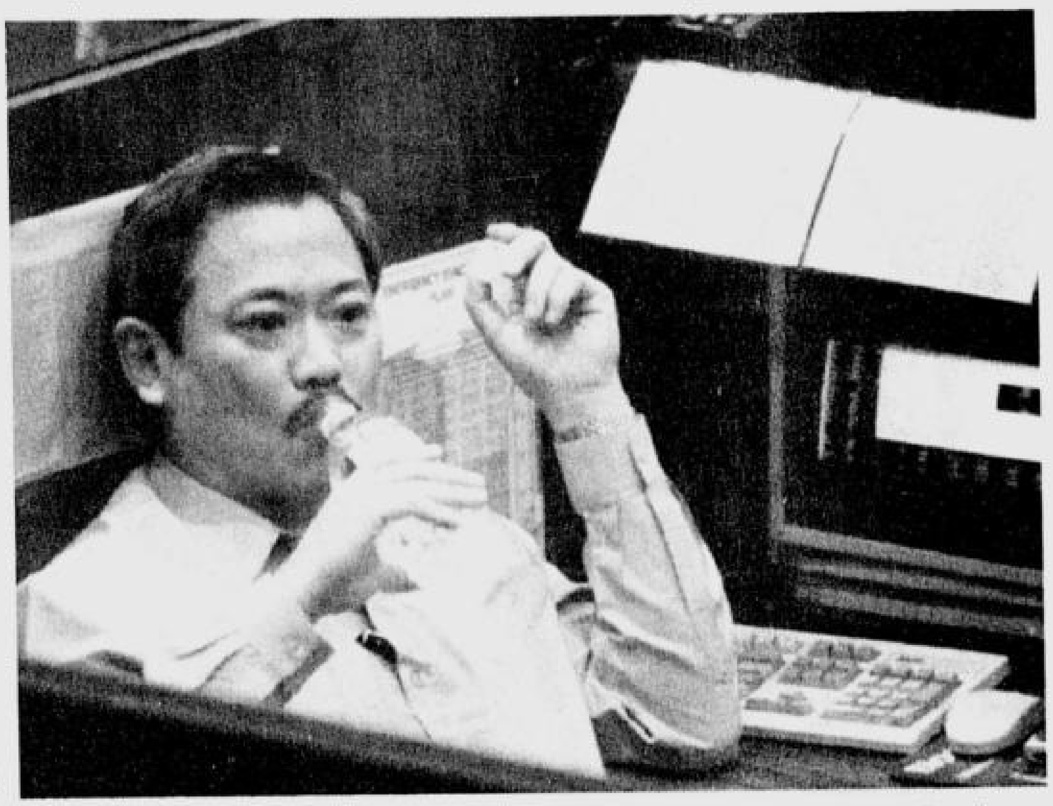
From page B1

tax rates would be implemented after a transition period of two years.

Vehicles are currently taxed based on engine displacement: 15 percent for 1600 cc gas and 1800 cc diesel engines, 35 percent for 2-liter gas and 2.3-liter diesel engines, 50 percent for 2.7-liter gas and 3-liter diesel engines, and 100 percent for engines bigger than for 2.7-liter gas and 3-liter diesel.

The source said the proposed tax reforms have apparently been stalled (these were supposed to be announced during the President's State of the Nation Address last month) as the DTI wanted to get the full backing of the local automotive industry before filing the bill in Congress. The source said the Japanese assemblers would only shift their lobbying from the government to Congress if the DTI insisted on railroading the shift to a value-based tax.

Trade Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II maintained that a value-based tax system was best for the entire industry despite warnings from Japanese assemblers that this was more apt for developed countries rather than developing countries.



A FILIPINO trader sips water while waiting for investors to call in at the trading floor of the Philippine Stock Exchange in Makati. Share prices closed 0.4 percent higher yesterday on bargain hunting after slipping for almost a week. REUTERS

SEC probe shows insider trading in Filinvest Land

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission said it believed that publicly listed Filinvest Development Corp. of the Gotianun family had been involved in insider trading of property unit Filinvest Land Inc. shares earlier this year.

In a letter sent yesterday, SEC compliance and enforcement department director Jose Tomas Syquia invited FDC chair and chief executive Andrew Gotianun Sr. to view the department's documentary evidence, which was the basis of its investigation report implicating FDC.

Syquia gave Gotianun a non-extendible period of 15 days to review the findings carefully and submit an explanation, comment or own version of the facts, with supporting documents if any.

Last February, FLI announced that it agreed to issue P1.2 billion in convertible bonds to Reco Grandhomes, a subsidiary of GIC Real Estate Pte Ltd. of Singapore, at a conversion price of as much as P1.875 per share, or way below the prevailing market price at that time.

In reaction to the news, FLI's share price plunged, leading many investors to lose money.

Subsequently, a group of 30 brokers then questioned, among others, the late disclosure of the transaction given that negotiations for the bond deal had started months before.

The SEC's investigation report detailed how FDC sold 39 times FLI securities while in possession of material non-public information, particularly the actual bond conversion price.

In a briefing with reporters, Syquia said that after 15 days the department "will see if their explanation is meritorious or not."

"After that we make our own recommendation to the commission, whether to dismiss, settle or file administrative or criminal case."

Possible administrative penalties range from revocation of its license, suspension or fines and penalties.

Criminal penalties include imprisonment of seven to 21 years.

If ever the SEC files a criminal complaint against FDC and its officers and/or directors, it will be the second insider trading case in Philippine history.

Syquia noted that because it was able to sell at a price much higher than the price of FLI shares after the bond disclosure, FDC either avoided a loss or profited P20 million.

Tambunting firm scraps public offering

By Doris C. Dumlao

POOR market conditions have forced the Tambunting family's pawnshop chain operator, TFS Inc., to scrap plans to list shares on the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Persons familiar with the matter said yesterday TFS had already informed the PSE that it would no longer push through with an initial public offering.

TFS was originally set to go public early this year, but it decided to defer its IPO to the fourth quarter or early next year.

INQUIRER sources said TFS had enough time to request the stock exchange for another extension, but it instead allowed its deadline to lapse last week.

The local bourse now considers TFS' public offering as "abandoned," they said.

Other sources said differences within the Tambunting family probably derailed the planned IPO. They did not elaborate.

The company was supposed to be the second to list on the small and medium enterprise board of the PSE.

The listing was originally scheduled on April 10 and its IPO in March.

TFS planned to offer 30 million new unclassified common shares equivalent to 30 percent of its post-IPO shares at a price of P1.05 each.

It had tapped BV Partners Inc. as financial adviser and Keppel IVI Investments Inc. as issue manager.

TFS expected to raise some P31.5 million from its IPO and about P26.78 million after deducting underwriting fees and other expenses.

Proceeds were to be used to fund the company's network expansion.

The Tambunting pawnshop network was founded in 1906 in Manila by the late Ildefonso Tan Bunting under the name "Casa Agencia de Empeños de Ildefonso Tan Bunting."

In 1986, some Tambunting family members began establishing pawnshops to increase market share using trade names such as Federal Pawnshop, Unlad Pawnshop and First Pawnshop.

By 1992, the network had expanded to 300 branches.

The family later decided to divide on an equal basis the network of Tambunting pawnshops among its members.

The practice of using other trade names was discontinued.

In 1997, TFS was established by Antonio Tambunting Jr., Hideliza Ongsiako, Milagros Puyat and their children as a wholly owned subsidiary of Tambunting Financial Services Holdings Corp., a corporation engaged in multi-finance services, including pawn brokerage and consumer finance services.

The Tambunting investors sold to TFS a network of 40 branches, with branch assets of about P20 million and a consolidated loan portfolio of about P76 million.

TFS now has 50 branches and 153 employees nationwide.

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Tuesday, July 30, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	16.75	16.75	16.75	16.75	19,500
Bank of the Phil. Islands	47	48	47	47.5	849,900
China Banking Corp.	600	605	600	605	19,060
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	294,800
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	34	34.5	34	34	607,900
Philippine National Bank	33	33	31.5	32	15,400
Security Bank Corp.	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	500
Union Bank of the Phil.	18	18	18	18	52,500
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	218	218	218	218	100
Manulife Financial Corp.	1305	1310	1305	1310	920
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	80,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	950	950	950	950	4,230
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	22	22.25	22	22.25	800
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.64	0.65	0.64	0.65	700,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	520	520	510	510	2,260
Ipeople Inc.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	10,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	3,000,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.028	1,100,000
Piltel	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.3	370,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.22	0.22	0.17	0.17	80,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	310	312.5	307.5	310	134,860
Ivantage Corp.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	49,960,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.013	6,200,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	19.5	20	19.5	19.75	6,900
Manila Electric Co. B	27	28.5	27	28.5	1,132,200
Petron Corp.	1.76	1.76	1.74	1.74	1,668,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	1,560,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	220,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.42	2.44	2.42	2.44	325,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	30,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.4	65,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Republic Cement Corp.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	50,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	350,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	60,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	15,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	12	12.25	12	12.25	4,536,900
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.5	21,000
RFM Corp.	0.86	0.86	0.83	0.86	1,430,000
San Miguel Corp. A	46.5	46.5	45.5	46	147,100
San Miguel Corp. B	51.5	51.5	50.5	50.5	900,200
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.46	0.46	0.44	0.45	100,000
Ayala Corp.	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.1	7,577,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.4	2.4	2.38	2.38	1,480,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.26	0.26	1,020,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	6,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.46	2.46	2.46	2.46	5,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	11	11	10	10	159,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.32	0.33	0.32	0.33	3,760,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	800,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	100,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	100,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.06	0.065	0.06	0.065	200,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	50,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	1,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	13.25	13.5	12.75	13	2,725,300
Global Equities Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	600,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	2,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	100,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.67	0.67	0.66	0.67	580,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.25	2,090,000
Music Corp.	0.16	0.16	0.15	0.15	70,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	80,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	190,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.46	0.47	0.46	0.47	630,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	20,000
Manila Jockey Club	10	10	10	10	5,000
Mondragon Intl Phils. Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	200,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	22	22.25	22	22.25	620,700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	419,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.1	6.1	6	6	10,666,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	30,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.26	0.36	0.26	0.35	80,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	800,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	580,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.19	0.195	0.19	0.195	870,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.08	2.12	2.08	2.12	1,045,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	1.88	1.88	1.88	1.88	50,000
City & Land Developers	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	15,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	34,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.7	3,970,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	3,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	160,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	70,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	2,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	64,000,000
Pacifica	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	1,000,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.14	0.15	0.14	0.15	960,000

Gokongwei given 5 days to explain

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission (SEC) asked John Gokongwei Jr. to explain within five days the "conflicting and misleading information" his group had submitted to the government regulatory agency regarding its memorandum of agreement (MOA) with First Pacific Co. Ltd. of Hong Kong.

SEC Chair Lilia R. Bautista told Gokongwei, in a letter dated July 23, that on the first page of the agreement, JG Summit Holdings Inc. appeared to be one of the parties in the MOA with the Hong Kong company, which was contrary to Gokongwei's representation.

Bautista also said that Gokongwei had erased JG Summit's name from the last page. "Considering that there are copies of the MOA without the erasure, crossing the words JG Summit Holdings Inc. may have been done after the fact," she added.

The MOA seeks to form a joint venture that will acquire First Pacific's 24.4 -percent stake in Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) and 50.4 percent of Bonifacio Land Corp. with Gokongwei owning two-thirds of the proposed joint venture company.

Bautista said that Gokongwei had always mentioned in his letters that the purchasing party was Gokongwei Group while the MOA showed it was the JG Group.

Bautista said that in the interest of promoting good corporate governance, principles and practices, such acts would not be tenable considering Gokongwei's **stature** and the magnitude of the contract.

CURRENCIES

July 30, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.019264	1.000000	51.7300
Japan	Yen	0.008515	0.008354	0.4322
United Kingdom	Pound	1.594027	1.563900	80.9005
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.130677	0.128207	6.6321
Switzerland	Franc	0.685773	0.672812	34.8046
Canada	Dollar	0.648799	0.636537	32.9281
Singapore	Dollar	0.576768	0.565867	29.2723
Australia	Dollar	0.551252	0.540833	27.9773
Bahrain	Dinar	2.703762	2.652661	137.2222
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.271797	0.266660	13.7943
Brunei	Dollar	0.576833	0.565931	29.2756
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000110	0.000108	0.0056
Thailand	Baht	0.024011	0.023557	1.2186
UAE	Dirham	0.277532	0.272287	14.0854
Korea	Won	0.000860	0.000844	0.0437
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.981100	50.7523
Argentina	Real	0.280017	0.274725	14.2115
Brazil	Real	0.326268	0.320102	16.5589
Denmark	Kroner	0.134352	0.131813	6.8187
India	Rupee	0.020972	0.020576	1.0644
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.268263	0.263193	13.6150
Mexico	New Peso	0.105063	0.103077	5.3322
New Zealand	Dollar	0.477005	0.467990	24.2091
Norway	Kroner	0.132567	0.130061	6.7281
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017030	0.016708	0.8643
South Africa	Rand	0.101218	0.099305	5.1370
Sweden	Kroner	0.107797	0.105760	5.4710
Syria	Pound	0.019830	0.019455	1.0064
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.030300	0.029727	1.5378
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000768	0.000753	0.0390

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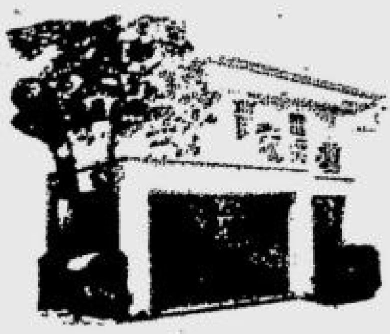

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MORE TEETH, DETERMINED PEOPLE

SEC stepping up drive vs securities law violators

JOSE Tomas "Tommy" Syquia is both feared and well liked for different reasons.

On one hand, he easily appeals to a lot of people because of the way he looks. On the other hand, he is feared by many in the corporate sector for his being in the front line of the Securities and Exchange Commission's crusade against insider traders, boiler room operators and other violators of securities laws.

As head of the SEC's compliance and enforcement department, Syquia's assignments involve a lot of detective work—scrutinizing corporate records, joining the National Bureau of Investigation in raids and checking who talked to whom at what time.

His avowed goal is to build solid cases against suspected violators of the country's securities laws. So far, the efforts of the 32-year-old lawyer's team have led to the closure of a number of boiler room operators that fraudulently sold stocks and other securities.

Syquia is used to taking on difficult cases. Prior to his transfer to the SEC in 2001, first as CED assistant director, he was state counsel for the Department of Justice, where he worked for three years.

In 1997, he worked for the Syquia law offices largely on collection cases and amicable settlements. In 1995, he was a volunteer lawyer of the Ateneo Human Rights center handling labor disputes.

Syquia recently talked to The Inquirer's Doris C. Dumlao and Elena R. Torrijos and shared his views on the country's new securities law and the state of the law's enforcement.

Excerpts from the interview:

Q & A

Question: Has the passage of the Securities and Regulations Code two years ago given regulators more teeth in eliminating manipulative practices in the stock exchange?

Answer: I think it has. First, the SRC now explains in a bit more details the elements of stock manipulation and insider trading and it has broadened the concept so that we are able to cover more entities.

Second, the law increased the penalties on violators. Third, the law has given more powers to the Securities and Exchange Commission. Although the law gives a lot of emphasis on the SRO (self-regulatory organization), it doesn't remove the fact that the commission can at any time take over and exercise its own powers against certain market participants.

But of course, there are some provisions that may have been overlooked which we are now hoping to correct.

Q: Has compliance improved since the law was passed? Has the SEC become more aggressive in exercising its powers?

A: The regulatory departments of the commission such as market regulation and company finance departments have become more pro-active in monitoring compliance with the reportorial requirements. They've been trying to computerize everything to make monitoring easier.

I think enforcement also improved. Compared to last year, the SEC is more visible now. We've done a number of raids against pseudo investment firms, illegal brokers and we are now doing investigations of firms suspected to be engaged in insider trading. We had one many years ago involving Interport (Resources Corp.) but the Court of Appeals issued an injunction against us. After so many years, we are doing it again. We're sending out the message that we will do these investigations. We've been sending our people to training here and abroad on a lot of investigative techniques.

Q: Is the stigma of the BW scandal now gone?

A: On the reputation of the SEC, the latest poll conducted by the Makati Business Club last year showed that the SEC ranked No. 6. Before that, we were nowhere. That shows that under the new chairmanship, the image of the SEC has changed. As to the stigma of the BW, the SEC has penalized almost 77 brokers and so far 66 individuals have already paid settlements. We've filed criminal charges against 34 people. We're sending a message that we'll impose penalties and fines on people involved in illegal activities.

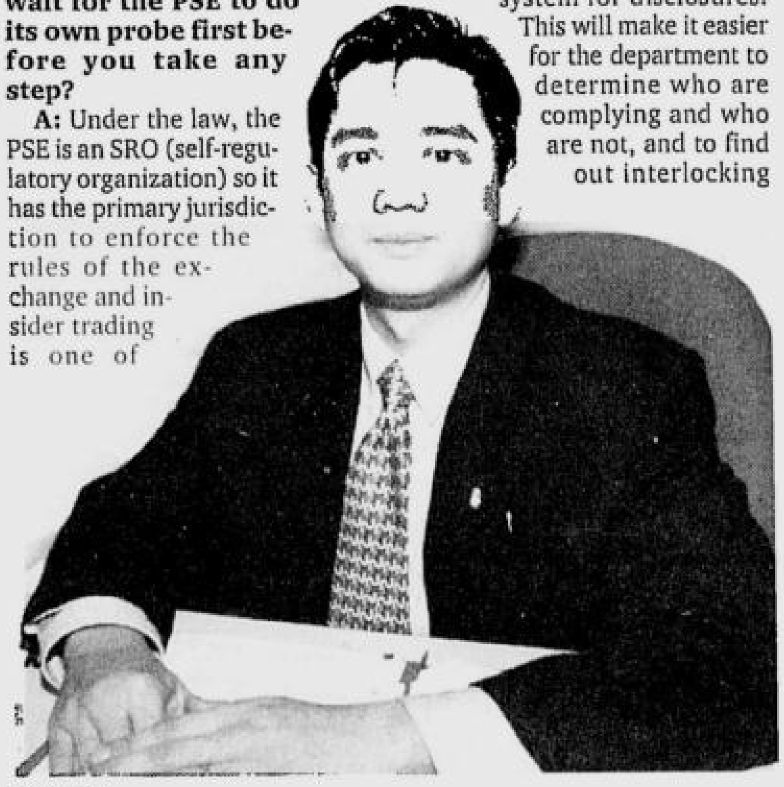
Q: How would you assess the PSE's efforts to increase investor protection in the aftermath of the BW scandal?

A: We have been in close coordination with the PSE's compliance and surveillance group under lawyer Manuel Lopez and he regularly sends me updates on the investigations and complaints that they are handling. I think the records will show that they have been actively doing their own investigations of insider trading allegations.

In the past six months or so, they've been trying to show that they can do these kinds of investigations and they've made referrals to us on some suspicious market transactions when the ones involved are the issuers or individuals who were not under their jurisdiction.

Q: If there's a tip, do you wait for the PSE to do its own probe first before you take any step?

A: Under the law, the PSE is an SRO (self-regulatory organization) so it has the primary jurisdiction to enforce the rules of the exchange and insider trading is one of them. However, almost 80 percent of the rules of the exchange were lifted from the SRC. So, in almost 80 percent of the time, the PSE has primary jurisdiction over insider trading.


SYQUIA

In theory, we can take steps simultaneously. Nothing stops the SEC from taking steps in cases of unusual price movements, unusual volume movements and a movement against the industry pattern.

We have our own set of red flags. We can act on our own if we like to but more often than not, the PSE first conducts its own investigation because it is closer to the action so to speak. It then forwards its findings to us. But while they are doing their investigations, we would already be gathering our own evidence.

Q: Another common concern among investors is the poor disclosure rules in the Philippines. What are the regulators doing about this?

A: This is under the SEC's company corporation finance department (CFD) under (Director Justina) Callangan. They're trying to strengthen that aspect. First, in the pipeline is the review of the need to increase the penalties. They impose penalties on incomplete disclosures and late disclosures. Although the penalties are quite hefty now, they are still set to increase them.

The second is the adoption of a computerized or electronic filing system for disclosures. This will make it easier for the department to determine who are complying and who are not, and to find out interlocking directors and the independent directors.

Q: Are we nearing the conclusion of the BW case?

A: We're going toward that. The settlement offers of all the brokers have been completed. As to the individuals involved, we still have about 10-15 people who were notified of their deficiencies but have yet to reply. Maybe by this month or next we will already have a closure.

Q: Aside from BW, are there any other cases under investigation?

A: Yes, we have a few. Unfortunately, the law says that if it's under investigation, it's confidential unless it's already out in the press like that of Filinvest Land Inc. Even before this case reached us, it was already out in the press. But if it's not yet out, the law says it must be confidential so as to protect the reputation of the company in case the allegations are unfounded.

Q: What could trigger an investigation by your team.

A: We see red flags whenever there is a sudden upsurge in volume or when you see a big change in a relatively flat trading pattern. We also look at brokers who were not selling stocks for a long time and suddenly, they start selling heavily again on particular issues. We monitor sudden surges in prices, going against the tide, unusual block sales, heavy trading before the closing of trading. We want to inform the investors that we are aware of all these all the time.

We don't have so many people. Our enforcement department has only 32 people, nine of them form the support staff while the rest is technical.

What we do is we use the 80-20 rule: 80 percent of your impact will come from the top 20 percent of your cases so we have to maximize. Some of the smaller issues or smaller violations, we can't investigate right away. If it involves one individual doing wash sales or insider trading, we'll let them go for the meantime, and we will instead focus on the one who are making more money to send the signal that we can go against anyone.

If you look at other countries, let's say Australia, their enforcement has 300 people and in the US they have maybe double that number. But of course there are other issues like those they regulate are bigger. But even within Asia, the usual enforcement departments are quite large.

Q: Are you then beefing up your manpower?

A: Yes, we're trying to hire but (Budget) Secretary (Emilia) Boncodin said there would be (bureaucracy-wide) freeze hiring. We are planning to hire at least 10 more. We have a saying that enforcement is the means to achieving compliance. It's like in traffic management—people will not follow traffic lights if they know they won't get caught or, if ever they get caught, they know they can get away with it. Here we enforce the law to achieve compliance.

That's what we want to do. If we can ensure compliance, maybe we can entice more investors to come in.

To do that, we need more people.

Q: How do you deal with the financial limitations?

A: We focus on cases that we feel we have better chances of winning and that which have major impact on the market.

Q: How big do you think was the improvement in the enforcement of rules?

A: It has improved substantially. In case of the enforcement group, our cases against illegal brokers and boiler room operators have increased 200 percent. Against pseudo-investment firms, I think we're more visible now, we had Prosperity.com, G Cosmos and Powerhomes. In that aspect I'd say we increased by 200 percent as well.

Against the stockbrokers, this year we are doing three insider trading cases and that compared to none last year or maybe one before SRC was passed is a big improvement. We've done two stock manipulation cases.

We're gaining the expertise, so I'd say there has been a 100-percent increase in the crackdown on stock brokers violations.

Q: What do you think is the biggest threat against investors in general?

A: For the Filipino investors here, the pseudo investment companies pose the biggest threat. It's alarming. A lot of the money is being pumped into these pseudo investment companies because of the high investment gains offered per month, which is about 5-15 percent. If these pseudo investment firms collapsed, only one or two people would make money and those are the people who put up these companies.

Q: How big is this "industry?"

A: One company that offers a 5-percent interest a month, for instance, makes P20 million a day. We currently have about 10 open investigations.

The second is the foreign exchange type of companies. Majority of the news we are getting says that people lose money in these forex companies. You know, these companies will just say the market moved against them and that their margins were wiped out.

These are the threats that the SEC is now trying to address. The SEC has been going to provinces giving investor seminars since the greatest threat to investors is the lack of information and the lack of violators being convicted.

For foreign investors, I think the greatest threat is the lack of disclosure on involved issues. Without proper disclosure, they will not be able to check on the fundamentals of the companies they are interested in. The SEC is working on this and I think the plan is to put all these disclosures on the website.

I'd also say that another threat is the size of the listed companies' shares that are offered to the public, it's too small. Look at the listed companies here, 80 percent of them is still family owned. You go public and you list only 10 or 20 percent of your company so it remains basically a family company. Compare this with that in the US where the offered shares represent the majority, so you'll see the public owning more shares in listed companies that their founders.

> 'For Filipino investors here, the pseudo investment companies pose the biggest threat . . . For foreign investors,I think the greatest threat is the lack of disclosure on involved issues'

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Calatagan Golf Club "B"	-	110,000
Camp John Hay	240,000	260,000
Canlubang	-	600,000
Canyonwoods	Please Call	200,000
Capitol Hills	-	115,000
Celebrity Sports Club	170,000	180,000
Eagle Ridge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Eastridge "A"	-	150,000
Evercrest "A"	-	100,000
Forest Hills "A"	210,000	220,000
Forest Hills "B"	210,000	250,000
Forest Hills "C"	250,000	270,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	250,000	300,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	Please Call	-
Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	12,800,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	Please Call	12,500,000
Manila Polo	2,800,000	2,900,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	600,000	650,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	Please Call	750,000
Metropolitan Club "A"	100,000	120,000
Metropolitan Club "B"	-	150,000
Montemar (Individual)	30,000	40,000
Montemar (Corp)	50,000	-
Mt. Malarayat (Individual)	-	350,000
Orchard Golf Club "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Pueblo de Oro "A"/"B"/"C"	-	Please Call
Puerto Azul	-	125,000
Punta Fuego	-	Please Call
Quezon City Sports Club	200,000	220,000
Riviera Golf & Country Club "A"	-	Please Call
Rockwell	350,000	450,000
Sherwood Hills "A"	-	100,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,600,000	1,850,000
Sta. Elena "B"	-	2,100,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	280,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	170,000
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Tagaytay Highlands	820,000	875,000
Tagaytay Midlands	750,000	Please Call
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Forest Hills	30,000	Tagaytay Golf	45,000
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PLDT casts long shadow on stock market

By Abigail L. Ho

ANALYSTS have mixed feelings about investing in telecom stocks this quarter, as the market remains uncertain about the future of the country's dominant carrier.

Stocks of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. took quite a beating early this month, plunging to an 11-year low of P307.50 a share on July 5.

Telecom analysts attribute the almost steady decline in PLDT's share prices to uncertainties about the outcome of First Pacific Co. Ltd.'s bid to sell its 24.47-percent stake in the telecom firm to tycoon John Gokongwei Jr.

The Hong Kong-based conglomerate announced in early June that it was forming a $925-million joint venture with the Gokongweis that would take its controlling stake in PLDT and a 50.4-percent stake in Bonifacio Land Corp.

Since speculations about the possible sale started buzzing in late May, PLDT's share prices have been falling.

Mixed views

Joanne Miguel, a researcher at stockbrokerage F. Yap Securities Inc., said investors could take this as an opportunity to buy PLDT shares, as these were very much undervalued at this time.

"PLDT shares are undervalued at this level. This would be a good time to start accumulating shares, although good timing is important. Either there will still be a further sell-down or the share price has already hit bottom," she said.

But Mark Securities research head Manuel Cruz suggested otherwise. He recommended that investors not put money in telecom stocks, as the sector remained quite unstable.

"In light of what happened with WorldCom (Inc.) and the PLDT management squabble, I suggest that investors shy away from telecom stocks and just adopt a wait-and-see attitude," he said.

He said it would be wise for investors to wait for the outcome of the PLDT takeover story.

Gokongwei watch

Should the Gokongwei group succeed in taking over PLDT, he said, investors would have to look into how the Gokongweis would fare in managing the country's biggest telecom company.

"The Gokongwei group is known to be cost-efficient. It could pay down PLDT's debts and minimize (capital expenditures) for the first three to five years. But in terms of operation, there will be no massive build-up on PLDT. Investors should look at whether or not PLDT will perform well under a new management," Cruz said.

F. Yap's Miguel added that the Gokongwei group would have to prove itself worthy of staying at the helm of PLDT should the sale pushes through.

"It (a merger between PLDT and Gokongwei's Digital Telecommunications Philippines Inc.) will take time. The group has to prove itself to the existing shareholders," she said.

Consolidation

A possible effect of a PLDT sale to the Gokongweis is a consolidation in the industry.

Cruz said the telecom sector was "in dire straits" right now, and a consolidation could possibly lift this ailing industry.

"Eventually, small companies will not survive. Even big companies are already streamlining their operations. Within the next three years, small companies will be eaten up by the large players," he said.

Miguel agreed, saying a consolidation would do the industry much good as it could propel the country's telecom entities to the global market.

"It would take two to three years to happen, but it would be a good move on the part of the industry. The trend now is for companies to go global. With bigger and stronger local players, the Philippines could compete with the big players in the region," she said.

Dire straits

Cruz said most of the existing players were having a difficult time staying afloat.

He cited the industry players' huge dollar-denominated debts that would be falling due over the next three years.

"BayanTel (Bayan Telecommunications Inc.) is stuck in the middle of the Lopez's financial chaos. Digitel also has huge numbers to deal with. Even PLDT has huge maturing obligations," he said.

Lopez-owned BayanTel is still negotiating with its creditors for the restructuring of its $477 million worth of debts.

Gokongwei's Digitel, on the other hand, is having some multimillion-dollar problems with some suppliers' agreements it entered into with different equipment providers.

PLDT itself has over $1.3 billion in maturing debts from this year to 2004.

"Investors should also take into consideration the obligations of the companies, including bonds and interest payments. They should continue to be in a wait-and-see stance," Cruz said.

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2	150 sq.m., TCT No. T-205130 w/ fairly maintained 55.78 sq.m. bungalow w/ fence	#91 Yakal St., Lot 4-C-3-C-2 Dona Pilar Village, Sasa Davao City	296,000.00
3	150 sq.m., TCT No. T-256568 w/ fairly maintained 47.62 sq.m. bungalow	#50 Falcon Street, Lot 1 Block 5, St. Michael Village 2 Maa, Davao City	288,300.00
4	400 sq.m. TCT No. T-320772 w/ fairly maintained 100.20 sq.m. Split level bungalow	Lot 394-B-5-C-2 Truscon Maa, Davao City	504,400.00
5	150 sq.m., TCT No. T-261538 w/ fairly maintained 52.70 sq.m. bungalow	#40 Jade Street, Lot 25, Blk 6 Dona Luisa Subdivision Matina, Davao City	386,600.00
6	216 sq.m., TCT No. T-270932 w/ fairly maintained 45.62 sq.m. bungalow w/ fence	#149 Sapphire St., Lot 4-A-7 Pampanga Exec. Homes Pampanga, Davao City	369,500.00
7	150 sq.m., TCT No. T-279460 w/ poorly maintained 52.98 sq.m. bungalow w/ fence	#78 Pearl Street, Dona Luisa Village, Lot 5, Block 4 Matina, Davao City	398,100.00
8	150 sq.m., TCT No. T-261550 w/ fairly maintained 42.76 sq.m. bungalow w/ fence	#71 Rizal St., Lot 4, Blk 8 Sto. Domingo Vill. 1 Pampanga, Davao City	237,400.00
9	150 sq.m., TCT No. T-236426 w/ fairly maintained 40.83 sq.m. bungalow	#103 Yakal St., Lot 19, Blk 4 Dona Pilar Vill., Ph 4 Sasa, Davao City	266,900.00
10	171 sq.m., TCT No. T-294689 w/ poorly maintained 52.72 sq.m. bungalow	#46 Capricorn-Libra Sts. Lot 13, Block 7, Sto. Nino Vill Maa, Davao City	277,800.00
11	160 sq.m., TCT No. T-326053 w/ fairly maintained 46.57 sq.m. bungalow w/ fence	#34 Bethlehem St., Lot 20 Blk 2, St. Anthony Village Mamay, Davao City	304,100.00
12	150 sq.m., TCT No. T-256575 w/ fairly maintained 54.63 sq.m. bungalow w/ fence	#225 JLA Subdivision Lot 32, Block 2, Lanang Davao City	295,900.00
13	180 sq.m., TCT No. T-230869 w/ poorly maintained 47.76 sq.m. bungalow	Lot 941-B-2-D-I-E St. Francis Subd., Cat. Grande Davao City	248,800.00
14	162 sq.m., TCT No. T-326062 w/ poorly maintained 52.58 sq.m. bungalow	#321 Amethyst St., Lot 21 Blk 3, San Juan Village Panacan, Davao City	229,700.00
15	300 sq.m., TCT No. T-244737 w/ poorly maintained 56.00 sq.m. bungalow	#51 Zambales St., Lot 5, Blk 9 Rolling Hills Subdivision Bacaca, Davao City	334,200.00
16	155 sq.m., TCT No. T-279455 w/ fairly maintained 37.50 sq.m. bungalow w/ fence	#357 Jupiter St., Lot 13, Blk 3 Victoria Hgts. Subd Mamay, Davao City	283,100.00
17	205 sq.m., TCT No. T-219625 w/ poorly maintained 37.20 sq.m. bungalow	#672-A Iginagalang St., Lot 32 Block 12, DDF Village, Ph 1 Mandug, Davao City	92,400.00
18	204 sq.m., TCT No. T-286528 w/ fairly maintained 76.65 sq.m. bungalow w/ fence	#14 Durian Street, Lot 14, Block 1, Nova Tierra Village 1 Pampanga, Davao City	566,900.00
19	150 sq.m., TCT No. T-328357 w/ fairly maintained 47.70 sq.m. bungalow	Lot 7, Blk 1, Siniguelas St Sto. Domingo Vill. II Sasa, Davao City	259,100.00
20	150 sq.m., TCT No. T-256565 w/ poorly maintained 42.77 sq.m. bungalow	#64 Burgos St., Sto.Domingo Vill. 1, Lot 3, Block 1 Pampanga, Davao City	228,000.00
21	150 sq.m., TCT No. T-329273 w/ fairly maintained 41.28 sq.m. duplex type bungalow	Lot 556-A-4-B Sta. Rita Street Mamay Village, Lanang Davao City	260,200.00
22	150 sq.m., TCT No. T-326970 w/ poorly maintained 47.92 sq.m. bungalow	#56 Galilee St., Lot 4, Blk 7 St. Michael Vill. 1 Maa, Davao City	260,300.00
23	195 sq.m., TCT No. T-326966 w/ fairly maintained 83.61 sq.m. bungalow w/ fence	#312 Cessna St., Lot 16, Blk 3, JLA Village Lanang, Davao City	430,800.00
24	150 sq.m., TCT No. T-317295 w/ fairly maintained 50.51 sq.m. bungalow	#85 Jericho St., Lot 3, Blk 10 St. Michael Vill. 1 Maa, Davao City	306,200.00
25	545 sq.m., TCT No. T-288761 w/ poorly maintained 62.40 sq.m. bungalow (226 sq.m. road right of way)	Lot 9-A-5 Del Pilar Village Maa, Davao City	337,800.00
26	204 sq.m., TCT No. T-294690 w/ fairly maintained 61.56 sq.m. bungalow	#186 Rambutan St., Lot 186 Blk 6, DDF Village, Mandug Davao City	157,900.00
27	185 sq.m., TCT No. T-256566 w/ poorly maintained 46.70 sq.m. bungalow	#146 Magsaysay St, Lot 10 Blk 12, Sto. Domingo Vill 1 Pampanga, Davao City	262,700.00
28	168 sq.m., TCT No. T-317216 w/ fairly maintained 105.16 sq.m. bungalow w/ fence	#50 Mabini St.,Sto. Domingo Vill. 1, Lot 8, Block 6 Pampanga, Davao City	425,800.00
29	332 sq.m., TCT No. T-286523 w/ fairly maintained 63.70 sq.m. bungalow	Lot 3, Blk 3 Waling Waling & Magnolia Sts., IWHA Subd. Dumoy, Davao City	344,100.00
30	150 sq.m., TCT No. T-256562 w/ fairly maintained 49.49 sq.m. bungalow w/ fence	#67 Ipil Ipil St., Lot 4-C-3-C-10-G, Dona Pilar Village, Ph 4 Sasa, Davao City	264,700.00
31	150 sq.m., TCT No. T-317291 w/ fairly maintained 42.76 sq.m. bungalow	#91 Aquino St, Lot 3, Blk 17 Sto. Domingo Vill. 1 Pampanga, Davao City	262,600.00
32	304 sq.m., TCT No. T-285742 w/ fairly maintained 66.85 sq.m. bungalow w/ fence	Lot 4, Blk 3 Magnolia St IWHA Subd., Dumoy Davao City	360,800.00
33	150 sq.m., TCT No. T-320765 w/ fairly maintained 52.00 sq.m. bungalow	#70 Pearl St., Lot 9, Blk 4 Dona Luisa Subd, Matina Davao City	393,500.00
34	192 sq.m., TCT No. T-256561 w/ fairly maintained 49.38 sq.m. bungalow w/ fence	#148 Jasmin St.,Lot 3095-B-5-B-2-B-10-G-8, Donnasville Subd, Pampanga, Davao City	320,700.00
35	299 sq.m., TCT No. T-279468 w/ fairly maintained 57.86 sq.m. bungalow	#18 DSLA Subdivision Lot 35-D-8-1-3, Matina Davao City	346,900.00
36	150 sq.m., TCT No. T-261490 w/ poorly maintained 42.77 sq.m. bungalow	#180 Magsaysay St. Lot 2 Blk 12, Sto. Domingo Vill. 1 Pampanga, Davao City	239,300.00
37	150 sq.m., TCT No. T-261492 w/ fairly maintained 46.60 sq.m. bungalow	#195 Quezon St, Lot 5, Blk 14 Sto. Domingo Vill. 1 Pampanga, Davao City	252,900.00
38	150 sq.m., TCT No. T-330263 w/ poorly maintained 42.45 sq.m. bungalow	#101 Dove St., Lot 3, Blk 10 Marfori Hgts. Subd. II Davao City	387,400.00
39	150 sq.m., TCT No. T-329265 w/ fairly maintained 76.29 sq.m. bungalow	#319 Amethyst St., Lot 19 Blk 3, San Juan Village Panacan, Davao City	310,400.00
40	150 sq.m., TCT No. T-279458 w/ fairly maintained 53.80 sq.m. bungalow w/ fence	#223 Mars St.,Lot 12, Blk 4 Victoria Hgts. Subd Mamay, Davao City	304,500.00
41	150 sq.m., TCT No. T-328361 w/ well maintained 80.51 sq.m. bungalow	#20 Falcon St., Lot 10, Blk 1 St. Michael Vill. 2 Maa, Davao City	504,700.00
42	150 sq.m., TCT No. T-286540 w/ poorly maintained 52.58 sq.m. bungalow	#347 Papaya St., Lot 7,Blk 4 Sto. Domingo Vill. II Sasa, Davao City	262,000.00
43	154 sq.m., TCT No. T-285726 w/ fairly maintained 41.40 sq.m. bungalow w/ fence	Block 3, Lot 98 Magalang St DDF Village, Mandug Davao City	134,600.00
44	167 sq.m., TCT No. T-270934 w/ poorly maintained 52.57 sq.m. bungalow	Lot 5,Blk 3 Santan St. Dona Pilar Vill. Ph 7 Sasa, Davao City	267,100.00
45	150 sq.m., TCT No. T-250932 w/ fairly maintained 42.77 sq.m. bungalow	#111 Guijo St., Lot 4-C-3-H-5 Dona Pilar Vill. Ph 5 Sasa, Davao City	228,500.00
46	240 sq.m., TCT No. T-326037 w/ poorly maintained 52.06 sq.m. bungalow	#894-A St. Jude St, Blk 1 Lot 29, DDF Village Mandug, Davao City	128,800.00
47	206 sq.m., TCT No. T-289732 w/ poorly maintained 40.90 sq.m. bungalow	#656 Gemini St., Blk 11 Lot 16, DDF Village, Ph 1 Mandug, Davao City	104,500.00
48	167 sq.m., TCT No. T-330247 w/ poorly maintained 37.35 sq.m. bungalow	#60 Molave St., Lot 2, Block 3 Lea Subdivision, Mamay Davao City	222,400.00
49	153 sq.m., TCT No. T-250934 w/ fairly maintained 46.70 sq.m. bungalow w/ fence	#108 Jacinto/Aquino St., Lot 7 Blk 10, Sto. Domingo Vill. 1 Pampanga, Davao City	293,100.00
50	204 sq.m., TCT No. T-320773 w/ fairly maintained 62.82 sq.m. bungalow	#101 Kingfisher St., Lot 1, Blk 5 St. Michael Vill., Phase 2 Maa, Davao City	417,400.00
51	150 sq.m., TCT No. T-285736 w/ poorly maintained 40.75 sq.m. bungalow	Blk 3, Lot 101 Phase 5 Magalang St, DDF Village Mandug, Davao City	114,400.00
52	150 sq.m., TCT No. T-236437 w/ poorly maintained 41.04 sq.m. bungalow	#137 Jacinto St., Lot 12, Blk 11 Sto. Domingo Vill. 1 Pampanga, Davao City	222,500.00
53	150 sq.m., TCT No. T-330248 w/ fairly maintained 42.73 sq.m. bungalow	#57 Guijo St., Lot 6, Block 3 Lea Subdivision, Mamay Davao City	276,100.00
54	168 sq.m., TCT No. T-261539 w/ fairly maintained 53.03 sq.m. bungalow	Lot 2, Block 1 Bombil Street Dona Pilar Vill., Ph 7 Sasa, Davao City	322,800.00
55	150 sq.m., TCT No. T-285749 w/ fairly maintained 42.73 sq.m. bungalow	#493 Neptune St., Lot 7 Blk 4 Victoria Hgts. Subd. Lanang, Davao City	275,300.00
56	281 sq.m., TCT No. T-289726 w/ poorly maintained 61.13 sq.m. bungalow	Blk 17, Lot 13 La Suerte St. DDF Village, Mandug Davao City	188,400.00
57	150 sq.m., TCT No. T-244731 w/ fairly maintained 50.65 sq.m. bungalow	#143 Jacinto St., Lot 18, Blk 11 Sto. Domingo Vill. 1, Pampanga Davao City	282,200.00
58	160 sq.m., TCT No. T-285752 w/ fairly maintained 46.70 sq.m. bungalow	#102 Kingfisher St.,Lot 3, Blk 5 St. Michael Vill., Phase 2 Maa, Davao City	316,200.00
59	150 sq.m., TCT No. T-330274 w/ fairly maintained 77.10 sq.m. bungalow	#22 Diego Silang St., Blk 3 Lot 6, Sto. Domingo Vill. 1 Pampanga, Davao City	326,200.00
60	372 sq.m., TCT No. T-330276 & T-330275 w/ poorly maintained 57.80 sq.m. bungalow w/ fence	#61-62 Molave St., Lot 1 & 3 Block 4, Roldan Village Maa, Davao City	517,500.00
61	152 sq.m., TCT No. T-250936 w/ poorly maintained 43.97 sq.m. bungalow	#68 Lawaan St., Blk 9 Lot 7, Dona Pilar Vill., Ph 4 Sasa, Davao City	231,400.00
62	150 sq.m., TCT No. T-261541 w/ poorly maintained 52.49 sq.m. bungalow	#65 Woodpecker St., Blk 5 Lot 23, Dona Pilar Vill., Ph 2 Sasa, Davao City	249,800.00
63	150 sq.m., TCT No. T-285698 w/ fairly maintained 46.20 sq.m. bungalow	#130 Mercury St, Lot 10 Blk 1, Victoria Hgts. Subd. Mamay, Davao City	286,200.00
64	223 sq.m., TCT No. T-285727 w/ fairly maintained 61.25 sq.m. bungalow	#885-A St. Jude Drive, Blk 2 Lot 23, DDF Village, Ph 2 Mandug, Davao City	133,700.00
65	154 sq.m., TCT No. T-285734 w/ poorly maintained 40.75 sq.m. bungalow	Blk 3, Lot 100, Phase 5 Magalang St., DDF Village Mandug, Davao City	116,400.00
66	250 sq.m., TCT No. T-326043 w/ poorly maintained 41.30 sq.m. bungalow	#986-A Bonifacio St., Blk 5 Lot 22, DDF Village Mandug, Davao City	111.500.00
67	240 sq.m., TCT No. T-285725 w/ poorly maintained 41.35 sq.m. bungalow	#531-A Greenhills St. Blk 4 Lot 15, Ph 1, DDF Village Mandug, Davao City	139,400.00
68	206 sq.m., TCT No. T-326028 w/ poorly maintained 48.40 sq.m. bungalow	#663-A Gemini St., Blk 10 Lot 23, Ph 1, DDF Village Mandug, Davao City	97,800.00
69	150 sq.m., TCT No. T-321684 w/ fairly maintained 65.23 sq.m. bungalow	#46 Yakal St., Lot 5, Blk 2 Lea Subdivision, Mamay Davao City	316,900.00
70	380 sq.m., TCT No. T-286527 w/ poorly maintained 43.10 sq.m. bungalow w/ fence	#25 Hummingbird St., Lot 387-B-4-C Lopez Village Matina, Davao City	356,600.00
71	143 sq.m., TCT No. T-261546 w/ fairly maintained 42.77 sq.m. bungalow	#57 Lawaan Street, Blk 8 Lot 18, Dona Pilar Vill., Ph 4 Sasa, Davao City	233,400.00
72	250 sq.m., TCT No. T-326046 w/ fairly maintained 60.76 sq.m. bungalow	#850-A Marfori Ave., Blk 4 Lot 21, DDF Village, Ph 2 Mandug, Davao City	145,300.00
73	300 sq.m., TCT No. T-321689 w/ fairly maintained 43.80 sq.m. bungalow	Lot 25, Block 1 Santan Street IWHA Village, Dumoy Davao City	324,600.00
74	163 sq.m., TCT No. T-270939 w/ fairly maintained 46.60 sq.m. bungalow	#108 Galaxy/Angliongto Ave., Lot 1, Blk 1, Victoria Hgts. Subd., Mamay, Davao City	302,000.00
75	150 sq.m., TCT No. T-321691 w/ fairly maintained 62.98 sq.m. bungalow w/ fence	Quirino St., Lot 8, Block 16 Sto. Domingo Vill. 1 Pampanga, Davao City	290,600.00
76	160 sq.m., TCT No. T-279454 w/ fairly maintained 46.60 sq.m. bungalow w/ fence	#235 Venus/Uranus Street Lot 2, Blk 3, Victoria Hgts. Subd., Mamay, Davao City	337,400.00
77	238 sq.m., TCT No. T-321694 w/ fairly maintained 46.60 sq.m. bungalow	#35 Narra Street, Lot 21, Blk 1 Lea Subdivision, Mamay Davao City	362,900.00
78	150 sq.m., TCT No. T-326047 w/ poorly maintained 46.00 sq.m. bungalow	#24 Molave Street Lot 7-E-2-E-1-8-5-C Agdao, Davao City	284,100.00
79	150 sq.m., TCT No. T-326049 w/ poorly maintained 42.66 sq.m. bungalow	#44 Dama de Noche St.,Lot 9, Block 3, Landmark III Sasa, Davao City	207,700.00
80	150 sq.m., TCT No. T-270938 w/ poorly maintained 46.60 sq.m. bungalow	#343 Jupiter St., Lot 10 Block 4, Victoria Hgts. Subd. Mamay, Davao City	273,900.00
81	202 sq.m., TCT No. T-250927 w/ fairly maintained 43.97 sq.m. bungalow	Aquino St., Lot 21, Blk 8 Sto. Domingo Vill. 1, Pamp. Davao City	297,500.00
82	176 sq.m., TCT No. T-286520 w/ poorly maintained 46.60 sq.m. bungalow	#189 Quezon/Magsaysay Sts. Lot 9, Blk 15, Sto. Domingo Vill 1, Pampanga, Davao City	260,000.00
83	150 sq.m., TCT No. T-261549 w/ fairly maintained 42.76 sq.m. bungalow	#10 Molave St., Lot 8, Blk 8 Dona Pilar Vill., Ph 4 Sasa, Davao City	234,800.00
84	150 sq.m., TCT No. T-256571 w/ poorly maintained 49.37 sq.m. bungalow	#152 Del Pilar & Quirino Sts. Lot 1,Blk 16,Sto. Domingo Vill.1 Pampanga, Davao City	242,500.00
85	203 sq.m., TCT No. T-236413 w/ poorly maintained 44.05 sq.m. bungalow	#98 Guijo St.,Lot 4-C-3-F-9-A Dona Pilar Village, Ph 5 Sasa, Davao City	284,100.00
86	150 sq.m., TCT No. T-326054 w/ fairly maintained 46.70 sq.m. bungalow	Lot 4, Block 1, Falcon Street St. Michael Vill. 2, Maa Davao City	285,800.00
87	165 sq.m., TCT No. T-236431 w/ poorly maintained 42.77 sq.m. bungalow	#117 Woodpecker St., Lot 7 Blk 4, Dona Pilar Subd., Ph 4 Sasa, Davao City	226,900.00
88	150 sq.m., TCT No. T-326031 w/ fairly maintained 46.70 sq.m. bungalow	Magsaysay St., Lot 4, Blk 12 Sto. Domingo Village 1 Pampanga, Davao City	247,800.00
89	150 sq.m., TCT No. T-326972 w/ fairly maintained 48.55 sq.m. bungalow w/ fence	#24 Diego Silang St., Lot 7 Blk 3, Sto. Domingo Village 1 Pampanga, Davao City	270,300.00
90	156 sq.m., TCT No. T-285746 w/ fairly maintained 42.77 sq.m. bungalow	#136 Jacinto Street Lot 7-E-2-A-2-B-8, Sto.Domingo Vill. 1,Pampanga, Davao City	250,800.00
91	192 sq.m., TCT No. T-250924 w/ fairly maintained 46.90 sq.m. bungalow w/ fence	#145 Jasmin St., Lot 3095-B-5-B-2-B-10-G-5, Donnasville Subd. Pampanga, Davao City	308,800.00
92	150 sq.m., TCT No. T-250925 w/ fairly maintained 42.76 sq.m. bungalow	#140 Jacinto St., Lot 9, Blk 16 Sto. Domingo Village 1 Pampanga, Davao City	236,200.00
93	150 sq.m., TCT No. T-326060 w/ fairly maintained 42.32 sq.m. bungalow	#136 Eden St., Lot 21, Blk 2 St. Michael Village, Ph 1 Maa, Davao City	322,400.00
94	150 sq.m., TCT No. T-330258 w/ fairly maintained 76.30 sq.m. bungalow w/ fence	Quezon Street, Lot 9, Blk 14 Sto. Domingo Village 1 Pampanga, Davao City	332,100.00
95	150 sq.m., TCT No. T-279463 w/ fairly maintained 46.60 sq.m. bungalow	#445 Pluto St., Lot 2 Block 2, Victoria Hgts. Subd. Mamay, Davao City	299,100.00
96	298 sq.m., TCT No. T-326976 w/ fairly maintained 62.07 sq.m. bungalow	#6 Champaca St.,Lot 6 Block 4-J, Panorama Homes Subd., Buhangin, Davao City	387,700.00
97	150 sq.m., TCT No. T-288763 w/ poorly maintained 46.70 sq.m. bungalow	#191 Quezon Street, Lot 7 Blk 15, Sto. Domingo Village 1 Pampanga, Davao City	231,600.00
98	150 sq.m., TCT No. T-326968 w/ fairly maintained 46.70 sq.m. bungalow Maa, Davao City	#29 Falcon St., Lot 18, Blk 2 St. Michael Vill., Ph 2	318,300.00
99	150 sq.m., TCT No. T-329246 w/ fairly maintained 42.77 sq.m. bungalow	#9 Eden St., Lot 17, Blk 2 St. Michael Vill., Ph 1 Maa, Davao City	312,800.00
100	150 sq.m., TCT No. T-236444 w/ poorly maintained 46.60 sq.m. bungalow	#212 Mars St., Lot 9 Block 5, Victoria Hgts. Subd. Mamay, Davao City	269,500.00
101	214 sq.m., TCT No. T-328364 w/ fairly maintained 61.19 sq.m. bungalow	#561-A Fatima St., Lot 9 Block 6, DDF Village, Ph 1 Mandug, Davao City	118,000.00
102	150 sq.m., TCT No. T-317293 w/ poorly maintained 46.70 sq.m. bungalow w/ fence	#23 Diego Silang Street, Lot 10 Blk 4, Sto. Domingo Village 1 Pampanga, Davao City	251,100.00
103	150 sq.m., TCT No. T-285708 w/ fairly maintained 51.11 sq.m. bungalow	#183 Magsaysay Street, Lot 5 Blk 12, Sto. Domingo Village 1 Pampanga, Davao City	270,700.00
104	150 sq.m., TCT No. T-329285 w/ poorly maintained 31.80 sq.m. bungalow	#49 Daisy St., Lot 5, Block 1 Landmark III, Sasa Davao City	143,900.00
105	150 sq.m., TCT No. T-279466 w/ fairly maintained 42.77 sq.m. bungalow	#119 Manga St., Lot 6, Blk 10 Sto. Domingo Vill. 1 Pampanga, Davao City	271,200.00
106	215 sq.m., TCT No. T-340379 w/ fairly maintained 45.02 sq.m. bungalow	#329 Rambutan St., Lot 64 Blk 3, Sto. Domingo Vill. 2 Sasa, Davao City	270,900.00
107	300 sq.m., TCT No. T-329271 w/ well maintained 114.83 sq.m. bungalow	#220 Isarog St., Lot 21, Blk 24 Central Park Subd., Bangkal, Davao City	665,900.00
108	170 sq.m., TCT No. T-320779 w/ fairly maintained 84.32 sq.m. bungalow w/ fence	#82 Celica St., Lot 21, Blk 3 Sarphil Village, Agdao Davao City	418,100.00
109	150 sq.m., TCT No. T-329260 w/ poorly maintained 50.51 sq.m. bungalow	#17 JerichoSt., Lot 3,Block 11 St. Michael Vill. 1, Maa Davao City	267,300.00
110	150 sq.m., TCT No. T-285710 w/ poorly maintained 46.70 sq.m. bungalow	#184 Magsaysay St., Lot 6 Blk 12, Sto. Domingo Vill. 1 Pampanga, Davao City	238,900.00
111	150 sq.m., TCT No. T-285741 w/ fairly maintained 41.89 sq.m. bungalow w/ fence	#155 Del Pilar St., Lot 10 Blk 17, Sto. Domingo Vill. 1 Pampanga, Davao City	268,100.00
112	150 sq.m., TCT No. T-329264 w/ poorly maintained 44.98 sq.m. bungalow	#5922 Cashew St., Lot 22 Blk 9, Sto. Domingo Village Ph 2, Sasa, Davao City	238,100.00
	TAGUM CITY		
113	198 sq.m., TCT No. T-130850 w/ poorly maintained 56.29 sq.m. bungalow	#799 Lot 9, Block 11 Union Village Ph 2 Mankilam, Tagum City	193,300.00
114	180 sq.m., TCT No. T-135282 w/ poorly maintained 49.80 sq.m. bungalow	#1018 Lot 5, Block 5 Union Village Ph 2 Mankilam, Tagum City	168,000.00
115	180 sq.m., TCT No. T-161697 w/ poorly maintained 49.80 sq.m. bungalow	#980 Lot 3, Block 3 Union Village Ph 2 Mankilam, Tagum City	167,800.00
116	180 sq.m., TCT No. T-164196 w/ fairly maintained 56.29 sq.m. bungalow	#1015 Lot 2, Block 5 Union Village Ph 2 Mankilam, Tagum City	206,700.00
117	198 sq.m., TCT No. T-164200 w/ poorly maintained 56.29 sq.m. bungalow	#792 Lot 2, Block 11 Union Village Ph 2 Mankilam, Tagum City	207,700.00
118	244 sq.m., TCT No. T-164201 w/ fairly maintained 49.80 sq.m. bungalow	#942 Lot 11, Block 4 Union Village Ph 2 Mankilam, Tagum City	204,800.00
119	194 sq.m., TCT No. T-136276 w/ fairly maintained 43.55 sq.m. bungalow	#846 Lot D-7-C-5-C-11 Union Village Ph 1 Mankilam, Tagum City	155,500.00
120	194 sq.m., TCT No. T-165411 w/ well maintained 49.80 sq.m. bungalow	#1013 Lot 1, Block 1 Union Village Ph 2 Mankilam, Tagum City	286,200.00
121	180 sq.m., TCT No. T-165409 w/ poorly maintained 56.29 sq.m. bungalow	#828 Lot 3, Block 9 Union Village Ph 2 Mankilam, Tagum City	182,300.00
122	198 sq.m., TCT No. T-153321 w/ poorly maintained 56.29 sq.m. bungalow	#794 Lot 4, Block 11 Union Village Ph 2 Mankilam, Tagum City	198,400.00
123	180 sq.m., TCT No. T-158561 w/ poorly maintained 56.29 sq.m. bungalow	Lot 3, Block 8 Union Village Ph 2 Mankilam, Tagum City	189,000.00
124	213 sq.m., TCT No. T-159063 w/ fairly maintained 56.29 sq.m. bungalow	#786 Lot 15, Block 10 Union Village Ph 2 Mankilam, Tagum City	216,500.00
125	180 sq.m., TCT No. T-153346 w/ poorly maintained 49.80 sq.m. bungalow	#1008 Lot 6, Block 1 Union Village Ph 2 Mankilam, Tagum City	168,400.00
126	180 sq.m., TCT No. T-164197 w/ fairly maintained 56.29 sq.m. bungalow	#923 Lot 22, Block 1 Union Village Ph 2 Mankilam, Tagum City	197,000.00
127	213 sq.m., TCT No. T-164992 w/ poorly maintained 56.29 sq.m. bungalow	#784 Lot 13, Block 10 Union Village Ph 2 Mankilam, Tagum City	198,000.00
128	180 sq.m., TCT No. T-164195 w/ poorly maintained 56.29 sq.m. bungalow	#912 Lot 6, Block 8 Union Village Ph 2 Mankilam, Tagum City	185,300.00
129	180 sq.m., TCT No. T-143828 w/ poorly maintained 49.80 sq.m. bungalow	#987 Lot 12, Block 1 Union Village Ph 2 Mankilam, Tagum City	170,000.00
130	209 sq.m., TCT No. T-159407 w/ poorly maintained 56.29 sq.m. bungalow	Lot 1, Block 9 Union Village Ph 2 Mankilam, Tagum City	196,700.00
131	172 sq.m., TCT No. T-143955 w/ poorly maintained 56.29 sq.m. bungalow	#900 Lot 4, Block 7 Union Village Ph 2 Mankilam, Tagum City	171,300.00
132	180 sq.m., TCT No. T-161695 w/ poorly maintained 56.29 sq.m. bungalow	#969 Lot 12, Block 3 Union Village Ph 2 Mankilam, Tagum City	179,700.00
133	180 sq.m., TCT No. T-135284 w/ poorly maintained 56.29 sq.m. bungalow	#966 Lot 14, Block 1 Union Village Ph 2 Mankilam, Tagum City	177,300.00
134	180 sq.m., TCT No. T-136111 w/ fairly maintained 43.55 sq.m. bungalow	#817 Lot D-7-C-5-E-21 Union Village Ph 1 Mankilam, Tagum City	136,500.00
135	262 sq.m., TCT No. T-164405 w/ poorly maintained 46.80 sq.m. bungalow	#848 Lot D-7-C-5-C-4 Union Village Ph 1 Mankilam, Tagum City	186,500.00
136	199 sq.m., TCT No. T-141530 w/ fairly maintained 56.29 sq.m. bungalow	Lot 26, Block 1 Union Village Ph 2 Mankilam, Tagum City	199,700.00
137	181 sq.m., TCT No. T-153344 w/ poorly maintained 49.80 sq.m. bungalow	Lot 23, Block 1 Union Village Ph 2 Mankilam, Tagum City	164,400.00
138	199 sq.m., TCT No. T-135285 w/ deteriorated 56.29 sq.m. bungalow	#989 Lot 8, Block 2 Union Village Ph 2 Mankilam, Tagum City	172,800.00
139	180 sq.m., TCT No. T-153347 w/ poorly maintained 56.29 sq.m. bungalow	#822 Lot 8, Block 9 Union Village Ph 2 Mankilam, Tagum City	184,800.00
140	180 sq.m., TCT No. T-138241 w/ poorly maintained 53.29 sq.m. bungalow	#970 Lot 13, Block 3 Union Village Ph 2 Mankilam, Tagum City	179,200.00
141	180 sq.m., TCT No. T-138245 w/ poorly maintained 49.80 sq.m. bungalow	#1011 Lot 3, Block 1 Union Village Ph 2 Mankilam, Tagum City	161,400.00
142	180 sq.m., TCT No. T-138250 w/ poorly maintained 56.29 sq.m. bungalow	#774 Lot 3, Block 10 Union Village Ph 2 Mankilam, Tagum City	170,000.00
143	304 sq.m., TCT No. T-138247 w/ poorly maintained 56.29 sq.m. bungalow	#1003 Lot 7, Block 2 Union Village Ph 2 Mankilam, Tagum City	248,100.00
144	180 sq.m., TCT No. T-164934 w/ poorly maintained 43.55 sq.m. bungalow	#811 Lot D-7-C-5-E-9 Union Village Ph 1 Mankilam, Tagum City	140,000.00
145	180 sq.m., TCT No. T-135280 w/ poorly maintained 49.80 sq.m. bungalow	#1009 Lot 5, Block 1 Union Village Ph 2 Mankilam, Tagum City	162,900.00
146	213 sq.m., TCT No. T-161700 w/ fairly maintained 56.29 sq.m. bungalow	#782 Lot 11, Block 10 Union Village Ph 2 Mankilam, Tagum City	214,500.00
147	180 sq.m., TCT No. T-138242 w/ poorly maintained 56.29 sq.m. bungalow	#965 Lot 15, Block 1 Union Village Ph 2 Mankilam, Tagum City	199,500.00
148	180 sq.m., TCT No. T-161701 w/ poorly maintained 43.55 sq.m. bungalow	#835 Lot D-7-C-5-E-14 Union Village Ph 1 Mankilam, Tagum City	140,800.00
149	200 sq.m., TCT No. T-165362 w/ poorly maintained 56.29 sq.m. bungalow	#938 Lot D-7-C-5-G-7-1 Union Village, Ph 1 Mankilam, Tagum City	216,800.00
150	215 sq.m., TCT No. T-135287 w/ fairly maintained 49.80 sq.m. bungalow	#978 Lot 1, Block 3 Union Village Ph 2 Mankilam, Tagum City	196,500.00
151	180 sq.m., TCT No. T-135283 w/ fairly maintained 53.05 sq.m. bungalow	#908 Lot 7, Block 8 Union Village Ph 2 Mankilam, Tagum City	186,500.00
152	198 sq.m., TCT No. T-138243 w/ poorly maintained 56.29 sq.m. bungalow	#798 Lot 8, Block 11 Union Village Ph 2 Mankilam, Tagum City	195,200.00
153	180 sq.m., TCT No. T-136134 w/ fairly maintained 49.80 sq.m. bungalow	#973 Lot 6, Block 3 Union Village Ph 2 Mankilam, Tagum City	176,900.00
154	180 sq.m., TCT No. T-138244 w/ poorly maintained 49.80 sq.m. bungalow	#1007 Lot 7, Block 1 Union Village Ph 2 Mankilam, Tagum City	159,600.00
155	190 sq.m., TCT No. T-161670 w/ fairly maintained 43.55 sq.m. bungalow	#805 Lot D-7-C-5-C-7 Union Village Ph 1 Mankilam, Tagum City	159,800.00
156	209 sq.m., TCT No. T-135289 w/ fairly maintained 56.40 sq.m. bungalow	#904 Lot 2, Block 8 Union Village Ph 2 Mankilam, Tagum City	206,100.00
157	214 sq.m., TCT No. T-135288 w/ poorly maintained 50.40 sq.m. bungalow	#901 Lot 3, Block 7 Union Village Ph 2 Mankilam, Tagum City	185,200.00
158	180 sq.m., TCT No. T-161666 w/ poorly maintained 49.80 sq.m. bungalow	#1017 Lot 4, Block 5 Union Village Ph 2 Mankilam, Tagum City	167,000.00
159	180 sq.m., TCT No. T-135525 w/ fairly maintained 56.29 sq.m. bungalow	#983 Lot 6, Block 3 Union Village Ph 2 Mankilam, Tagum City	201,400.00
160	180 sq.m., TCT No. T-165412 w/ poorly maintained 53.30 sq.m. bungalow	#890 Lot D-7-C-5-D-2 Union Village Ph 1 Mankilam, Tagum City	173,500.00
161	180 sq.m., TCT No. T-135275 w/ fairly maintained 62.26 sq.m. bungalow	#915 Lot 8, Block 7 Union Village Ph 2 Mankilam, Tagum City	207,600.00
162	180 sq.m., TCT No. T-131118 w/ fairly maintained 64.42 sq.m. bungalow	#991 Lot 10, Block 2 Union Village Ph 2 Mankilam, Tagum City	227,100.00
163	158 sq.m., TCT No. T-141531 w/ fairly maintained 48.42 sq.m. bungalow	#877 Lot D-7-C-5-F-7 Union Village Ph 1 Mankilam, Tagum City	162,900.00
164	180 sq.m., TCT No. T-131119 w/ fairly maintained 91.30 sq.m. bungalow	#776 Lot 5, Block 10 Union Village Ph 2 Mankilam, Tagum City	315,000.00
165	240 sq.m., TCT No. T-159440 w/ poorly maintained 39.00 sq.m. bungalow	#1343 Purok Almasiga Lot 15, Block 5, Sison Subd Tagum City	262,400.00
166	500 sq.m., TCT No. T-135270 w/ fairly maintained 69.25 sq.m. bungalow	#002 Mangga St., Purok Sampaguita, Lot 1-A Visayan Village, Tagum City	397,900.00
167	180 sq.m., TCT No. T-159406 w/ fairly maintained 52.50 sq.m. bungalow	#016 Jupiter St., Lot 5, Blk 4 Mel Village, Tagum City	183,100.00
168	180 sq.m., TCT No. T-135271 w/ poorly maintained 46.40 sq.m. bungalow	Venus St., Lot 16, Blk 3 Mel Village, Tagum City	161,600.00
169	180 sq.m., TCT No. T-161702 w/ poorly maintained 43.80 sq.m. bungalow	#019 Jupiter St., Lot 14, Blk 3 Mel Village, Tagum City	162,500.00
170	186 sq.m., TCT No. T-161595 w/ fairly maintained 49.70 sq.m. bungalow	Lot 8, Blk 4 Mel Village, Tagum City	175,600.00
171	180 sq.m., TCT No. T-135273 w/ poorly maintained 54.08 sq.m. bungalow	Lot 6, Blk 4 Jupiter Street Mel Village, Tagum City	170,600.00
172	186 sq.m., TCT No. T-161584 w/ deteriorated 51.15 sq.m. bungalow	Lot 9, Blk 3 Mel Village, Tagum City	133,900.00
173	196 sq.m., TCT No. T-161590 w/ fairly maintained 68.66 sq.m. bungalow	Lot 21, Blk 3 Mel Village, Tagum City	239,300.00
	PANABO CITY		
174	221 sq.m., TCT No. T-135274 w/ fairly maintained 46.44 sq.m. bungalow	#6115 Lozada Subdivision Lot 147-I-1-B, Poblacion Panabo City	191,900.00
175	210 sq.m., TCT No. T-135276 w/ fairly maintained 50.30 sq.m. bungalow w/ fence	#7754 Gamao Subdivision Lot 8, Block 10, San Francisco Panabo City	197,900.00
176	350 sq.m., TCT No. T-136110 w/ fairly maintained 56.76 sq.m. bungalow	#6085 Lozada Subdivision Lot 147-J-1-C, Poblacion Panabo City	263,000.00
177	213 sq.m., TCT No. T-138246 w/ deteriorated 46.21 sq.m. bungalow	#726 Nicol Subdivision Lot 137-E-7, New Visayas Panabo City	129,800.00
178	218 sq.m., TCT No. T-135521 w/ fairly maintained 53.65 sq.m. bungalow	#6100 Lozada Subdivision Lot 147-I-4-D, Poblacion Panabo City	205,700.00
179	300 sq.m., TCT No. T-135523 w/ fairly maintained 42.15 sq.m. bungalow	#5983 Lower New Visayan Vill Lot 157-B-1, New Visayas Panabo City	168,600.00
180	195 sq.m., TCT No. T-138253 w/ poorly maintained 43.38 sq.m. bungalow	#6094 Lozada Subdivision Lot 147-I-5-E, Poblacion Panabo City	144,000.00
181	220 sq.m., TCT No. T-138248 w/ fairly maintained 44.88 sq.m. bungalow	#028 Lilia Homes, Lot 41 New Visayas, Panabo City	178,600.00
182	220 sq.m., TCT No. T-138252 w/ poorly maintained 45.00 sq.m. bungalow	#5103 Narra St., Lilia Homes Lot 37, New Visayas Panabo City	167,700.00
183	220 sq.m., TCT No. T-135524 w/ fairly maintained 42.41 sq.m. bungalow w/ fence	#6109 Lozada Subd. Lot 147-I-2-E, Poblacion Panabo City	199,800.00
184	226 sq.m., TCT No. T-141527 w/ poorly maintained 44.10 sq.m. bungalow	#2692 Lorsing Subd. Lot 1, Block 2, San Vicente Panabo City	169,100.00
185	200 sq.m., TCT No. T-135279 w/ fairly maintained 40.80 sq.m. bungalow	#6898 Arguelles Subd. Lot 1, New Visayas Panabo City	165,600.00
186	300 sq.m., TCT No. T-161671 w/ fairly maintained 52.89 sq.m. bungalow	#2221 Pelpinosas Subd. Lot 6204-F, San Vicente Panabo City	239,500.00

Complete description of the properties including Bidding Forms and Instruction to Bidders are available at the Loans Division, Branch Office 09, 2nd Floor, SSS Bldg.,J.P. Laurel Ave.,Bajada, Davao City. Please contact Mrs. Micisla M. Jara at Tel. Nos. 221-3493/ 221-3575/221-3505/ 221-3536 and 221-7751.

Sealed bids should be dropped at the Bid Box located at the Lobby, 2nd Floor, SSS Building, J. P. Laurel Avenue, Bajada, Davao City from 8:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. on August 22, 2002. The bids should be labelled Acquired Assets Disposal Committee, Social Security System, East Avenue, Quezon City.

Bidders deposit, equivalent to at least 10% of the bid price in cash (Philippine Money/U.S. Dollar) or in Certified Manager's/Cashier's Check in favor of SSS must be enclosed with the sealed bid. (Any other form or draft purportedly as a manner of payment is not acceptable). The bidder must also sign the sealed envelop across its flap. Sealed bid without the bidder's bond will not be entertained.

The Award shall be granted to the highest bidder.

The sale of the properties shall be "As Is, Where Is" and the winning bidder shall undertake the responsibility to acquire and maintain peaceful possession and enjoyment of the property without seeking the assistance from the SSS.

After deducting the bid deposit from the Bid Price, the balance shall be payable in cash within 30 days or an option to amortize within 12 months at 13% rate of interest per annum compounded monthly upon receipt of notice of approval.

The System reserves the right to reject any or all bids, or to waive any defect found therein.

All awards shall be subject to the approval of the Social Security Commission whose decision shall be final and binding on all concerned.

(Sgd.) **AVP ANTONETTE L. FERNANDEZ**
Vice Chairman
Acquired Assets Disposal Committee

(PDI - July 31, 2002)

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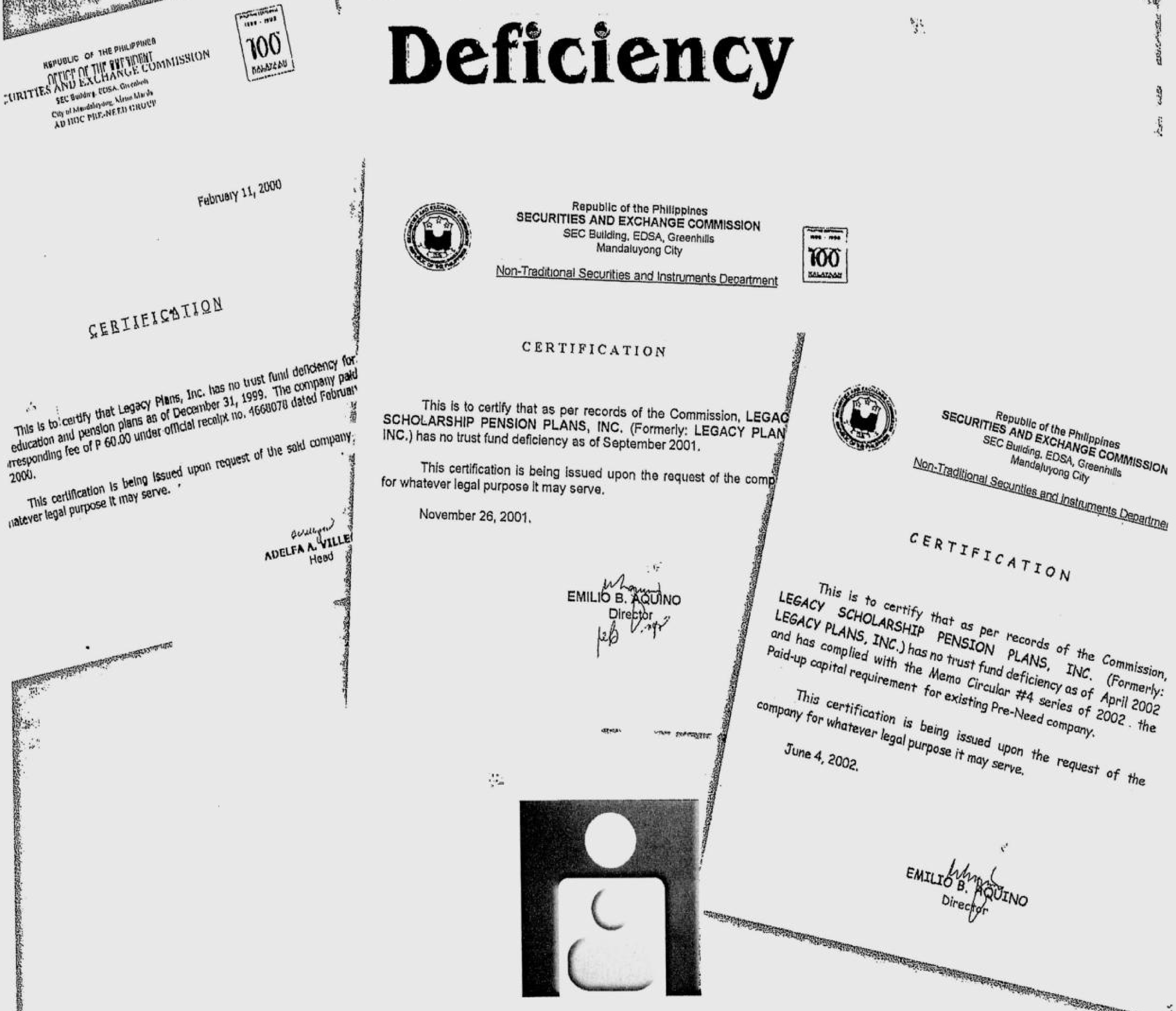

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SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills
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AD HOC PRE-NEED GROUP

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February 11, 2000

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that Legacy Plans, Inc. has no trust fund deficiency for education and pension plans as of December 31, 1999. The company paid rresponding fee of P 60.00 under official receipt no. 4660078 dated Februar 2000.

This certification is being issued upon request of the said company; natever legal purpose it may serve.

ADELFA A. VILLE
Head

Republic of the Philippines
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills
Mandaluyong City

Non-Traditional Securities and Instruments Department

100
KALAYAAN

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that as per records of the Commission, LEGAC SCHOLARSHIP PENSION PLANS, INC. (Formerly: LEGACY PLAN INC.) has no trust fund deficiency as of September 2001.

This certification is being issued upon the request of the comp for whatever legal purpose it may serve.

November 26, 2001.

EMILIO B. AQUINO
Director

Republic of the Philippines
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills
Mandaluyong City

Non-Traditional Securities and Instruments Departme

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that as per records of the Commission, LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP PENSION PLANS, INC. (Formerly: LEGACY PLANS, INC.) has no trust fund deficiency as of April 2002 and has complied with the Memo Circular #4 series of 2002 . the Paid-up capital requirement for existing Pre-Need company.

This certification is being issued upon the request of the company for whatever legal purpose it may serve.

June 4, 2002.

EMILIO B. AQUINO
Director

LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP PENSION PLANS, INC.

MEMBER: LEGACY GROUP

CORPORATE OFFICE
1438 Legacy - SPPI Building
Quezon Avenue cor. Scout Borromeo St.,
West Triangle, Quezon City, Philippines

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Reconsider stance on 5-pt plan, PLDT board urged

By Abigail L. Ho

FIRST Pacific Co. Ltd. has urged the board of directors of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. to reconsider their decision rejecting the Hong Kong-based firm's five-point plan to end a stalemate over a $925-million hostile takeover bid by tycoon John Gokongwei Jr.

In a statement issued yesterday, First Pacific said the directors might not have had enough time to consider the merits of the five-point proposal as it was only sent to them the other day.

"First Pacific appreciates that each PLDT director may not have had the opportunity to evaluate fully the plan's merits, prior to PLDT's statement of rejection. As such, First Pacific anticipates that PLDT's directors, in the exercise of their fiduciary duties to act in the best interests of all shareholders, will consider the five point plan, in detail, before issuing a formal reply from such directors to First Pacific's board," the Hong Kong-based firm said.

As of press time, members of the PLDT board were still in a meeting discussing a suitable response to First Pacific's anticipation of a reversal of the position they adopted last Tuesday.

First Pacific sent the PLDT board members last Tuesday a letter containing a five-point plan that aimed to "initiate constructive progress" on First Pacific's joint venture with the Gokongwei Group.

By early Tuesday evening, the 13-man PLDT board already came out with a one-paragraph "unofficial" statement rejecting the proposal.

"The PLDT board has already made a decision through their June 6, 2002 resolution against allowing a competitor to engage in any form of due diligence," a PLDT official said.

"The (memorandum of agreement) between First Pacific and JG Summit Holdings Inc. confirms that a competitor is party to the transaction and is in violation of Article V, Section 1 of the PLDT by-laws and, therefore, cannot and will not be allowed due diligence," the source added.

Petrochem group joins gov't anti-smuggling drive

THE LOCAL petrochemical industry, through the Association of Petrochemical Manufacturers of the Philippines, pledged its support to the government's drive against smuggling, which President Macapagal-Arroyo stressed in her State of the Nation Address on July 17.

Due to the rampant cases of smuggling in the country, which has deprived the national coffers of much needed revenues, the private sector must closely work with the government in its anti-smuggling campaign, said APMP chair Wilfredo Paras. "Only a strong government-industry partnership can effectively end smuggling," he added as he emphasized the need for industries to share information with the government to enable authorities to catch and prosecute smugglers.

In a report to Transportation and Communication Secretary Leandro Mendoza, who was designated by the President as head of a multi-agency anti-smuggling task force, the APMP reported that in 2000 alone, smuggled petrochemical resins reached 87,000 metric tons valued at P2.61 billion. Government losses in terms of taxes and duties were estimated to be over P574 million.

The group claimed that Customs Bonded Warehouses (CBWs) were also being used in the smuggling of resins. The APMP said that while CBWs were allowed to import tax and duty free, they were required to use imported resins exclusively as raw materials for plastic products geared for export. However, it claimed that these products were being diverted to traders' warehouses and sold in the domestic market. In light of this, APMP recommended the immediate audit of CBWs.

Estafa case vs ex-Urban Bank chief dismissed

By Raul C. Dancel

THE MANILA Regional Trial Court has dismissed estafa charges filed by government regulators against former Urban Bank Inc. president Teodoro Borlongan in connection with withdrawals involving accounts held by former San Miguel Corp. president Francisco Eizmendi Jr.

Government regulators had accused Borlongan and four other former Urban Bank officials of "conspiring, confederating and mutually helping one another" to "willfully, unlawfully and feloniously" pre-terminate P5 million worth of placements made by Eizmendi and his wife on April 25 and 26, 2000.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. alleged that unknown to the Eizmendi couple, checks worth about P5 million were released to Borlongan just before Urban Bank went on a holiday on April 26, 2000.

Urban Bank shut down on April 26, 2000, following weeks of heavy withdrawals caused by reports that Urbancorp Investments Inc. was about to go down.

The BSP and PDIC accused Borlongan and Bartolome of transferring some P4.5 billion worth of "garbage receivables" from Urbancorp to Urban Bank, causing the bank to suffer cash problems. The owners of Urban Bank defended the transfer of the loans as "financial intermediation."

In his ruling, Manila RTC Judge Napoleon Inoturan said there "is no categorical allegation of conversion or misappropriation of the subject funds of the spouses Francisco Jr. and Aurora Eizmendi."

"A bare allegation of pre-termination without their authority does not necessarily translate into a criminal act of conversion or misappropriation without an allegation that the accused possess no authority from Urban Bank to do so," he added.

The court also ruled that Borlongan acted in "good faith" when he pre-terminated the Eizmendi couple's placements with Urban Bank, a fact that the BSP and PDIC did not deny.

Palace upholds DENR order on Tampakan mine

MALACAÑANG has dismissed a petition by Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. questioning the validity of a Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) order upholding the legality of a Financial and Technical Assistance Agreement (FTAA) forged between Sagittarius Mines Inc. and WMC Philippines Inc. The FTAA covers a gold-copper mining operation in the Tampakan area in North Cotabato.

"This is the triumph of truth and justice for small claim owners and everyone in the Tampakan community," declared Claudio Barroso, mayor of the town. "We never doubted that the truth will prevail," he added.

The 13-page decision, handed down on Tuesday, stated that Lepanto "failed to substantiate its general allegation that it was denied an opportunity or access to information" pertaining to the transactions. It affirmed an earlier ruling by Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Heherson Alvarez upholding the legality of the transfer of the FTAA from WMC to Sagittarius.

Lepanto sought the revocation of the DENR order issued on Dec. 18 last year, claiming it had violated the company's right to due process, preempted resolution of certain cases pending before the courts and violated Section 40 of the Mining Act.

The decision tossed out for lack of merit Lepanto's argument that the environment and natural resources secretary and Malacañang have no jurisdiction over the case.

The court also told Lepanto to refrain from assailing the DENR's jurisdiction after actively participating in the proceedings therein and seeking affirmative relief.

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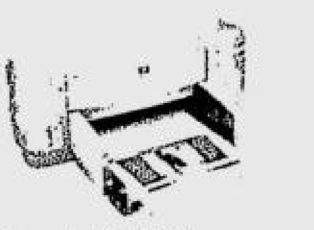

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BSP agrees to check issuers of mutual funds

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas has agreed to crack down on banks selling unregistered securities, particularly foreign mutual funds.

In an interview following a presentation at the Asian Institution of Management Jose Fernandez Center, Securities and Exchange Commission Chair Lilia Bautista announced that the central bank had agreed to issue a circular on the matter.

The SEC earlier asked the central bank to act on reports that HSBC Corp. and Standard Chartered Bank NV, both foreign banks, were offering mutual funds issued outside the country to their customers here in violation of the Securities Regulation Code.

The law bars the sale of securities, including mutual funds, and other investment instruments without SEC registration.

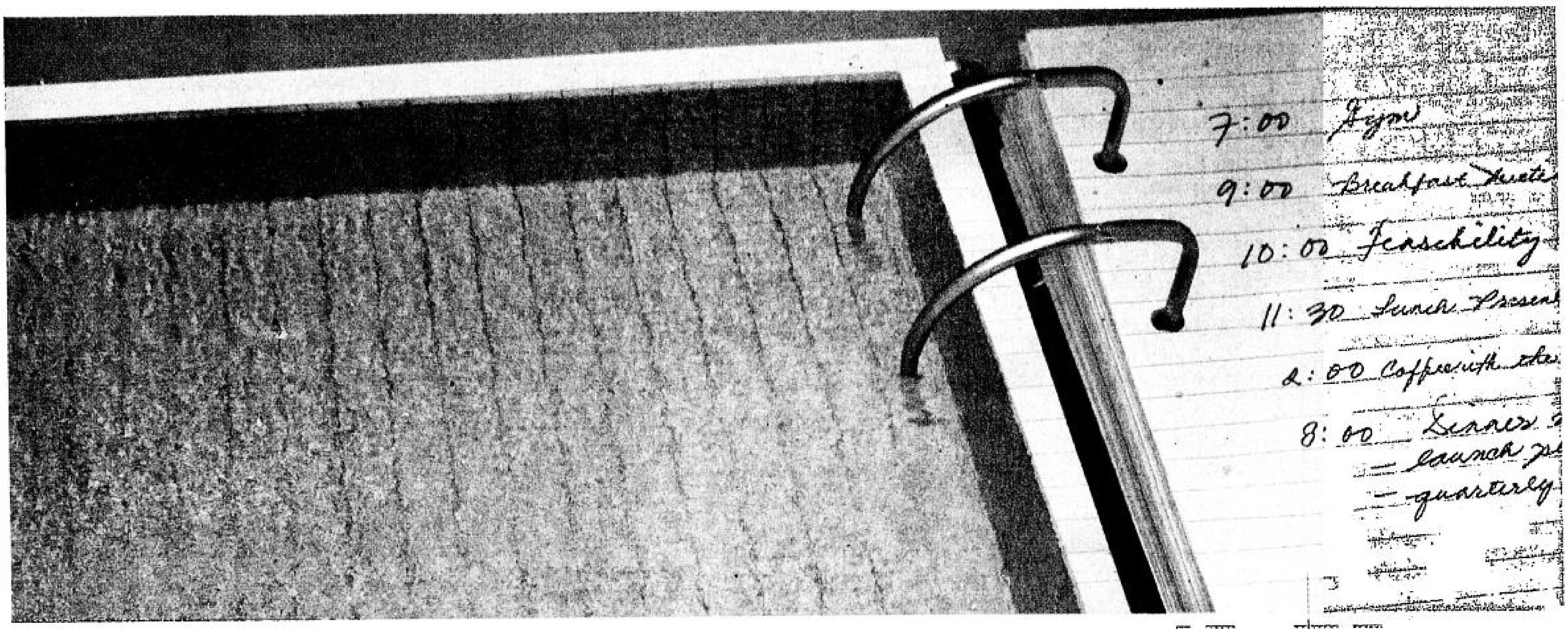
Bautista said HSBC, Standard Chartered and other banks seeking to sell mutual funds should register first with the SEC, but she doubted whether the commission would approve their applications.

These funds are likely to fail to meet the SEC's registration requirements, particularly the condition that 80 percent of a mutual fund must be invested in the Philippines, she explained.

Bautista had been asking the central bank to prevent banks from selling foreign mutual funds, but it was only on Monday when BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes agreed to issue a circular on the matter.

The SEC said a number of banks, particularly those with head offices abroad, were offering to their Philippine clients high-yield securities—often common trust funds and mutual funds—and making it appear that these transactions were proposed and consummated abroad.

"The dollar savings account has a very low return, so many banks offer to their clients mutual funds abroad. The banks make it appear that the offering is made abroad, but, in reality, they offer here, and they consummate the transaction here," Bautista said earlier.



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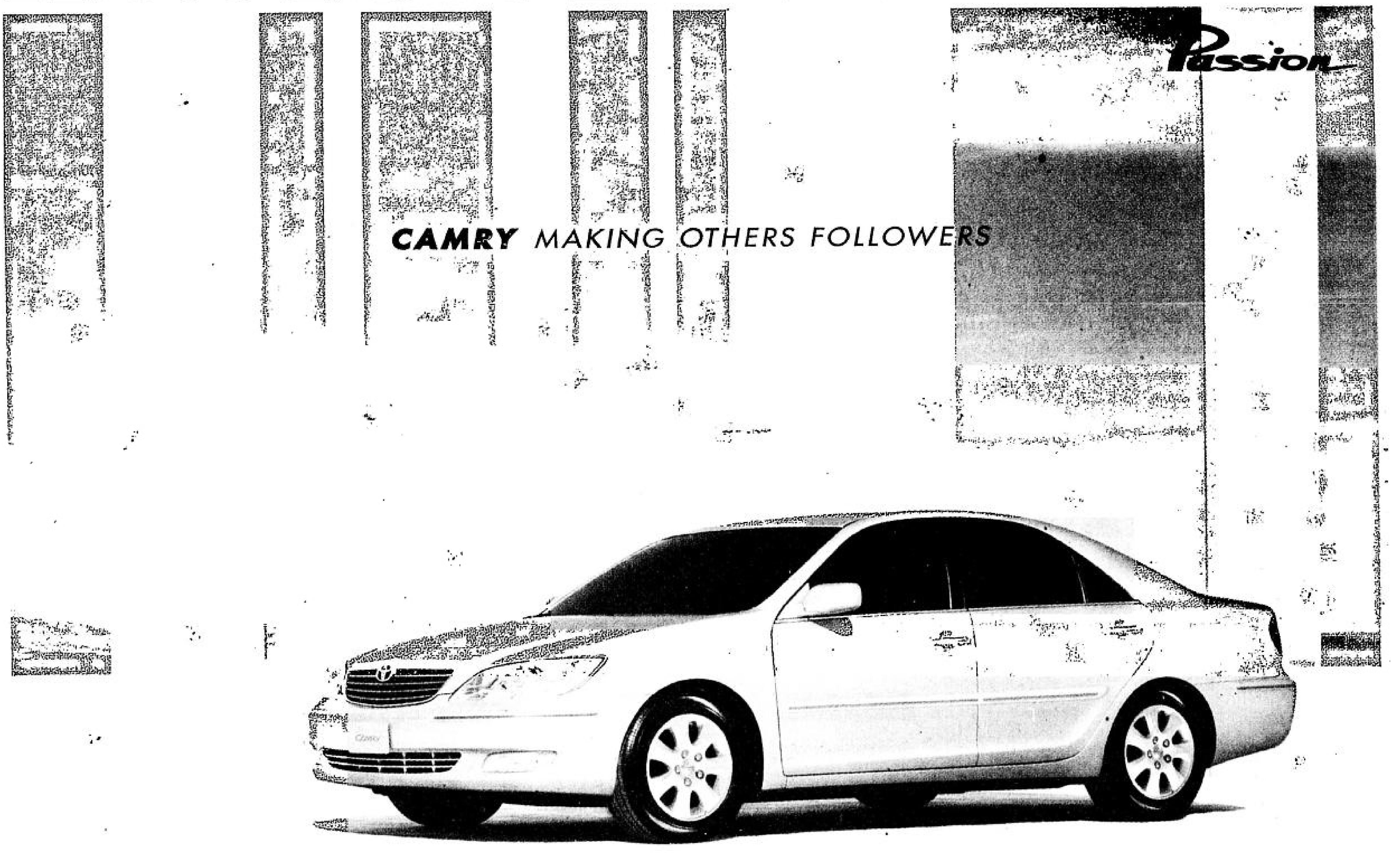

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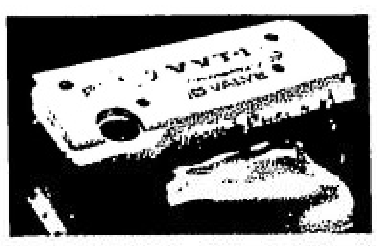
Also, the Brake Assist provides extra stopping power. Certainly, the new Camry does have what it takes to lead.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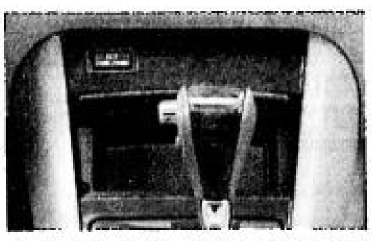
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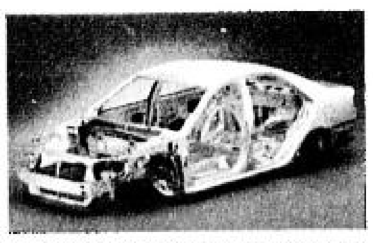
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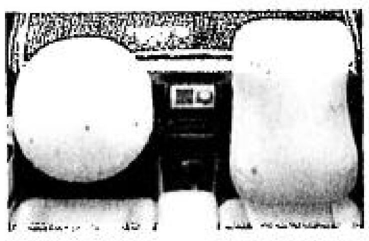
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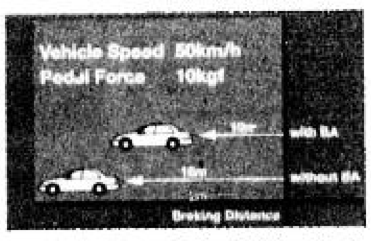

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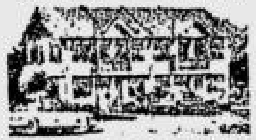

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NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the application of DENCRIS GARMENT with office address at #8 General Luna Street, Antipolo City for registration with the Board of Investments under Book I of the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, otherwise known as E.O. 226, as amended, as Existing Export Producer of Garments at a capacity of 20,000 pieces per year with plant site at the same office address stated above has been officially accepted on July 23, 2002 and is currently being processed.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file his/her objection, in writing and under oath, with the BOI within one (1) week from the date of this publication.

Issued this 23rd day of July 2002.

(Sgd.) DOMINGO I. BAGAPORO
Officer-In-Charge
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI -- July 31, 2002)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that the following blank Official Receipts duly registered under the name of Edsa Shangri-la, Manila were lost on 26 July 2002, and are now deemed void:

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Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ALIDA VERGEL DE DIOS-CACNIO was settled extrajudicially by her heirs before Grajo T. Albano, Notary Public in and for Quezon City, per Doc. No. 139; Page No. 28, Book No. II; Series of 1998 (PDI-July 24, 31 and Aug. 7, 2002)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Loss of ACR#181269 issued in favor of STEPHEN ZENZ, a German national, on 12-10-99 issued by the Bureau of Immigration (BID) (PDI-July 24, 31 & Aug. 7)

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Convergence sinks media firms

SAN FRANCISCO—The resignation of Bertelsmann AG chief Thomas Middelhoff was just the latest casualty in the so-called convergence craze that has derailed the careers of the world's leading media executives.

Convergence is the name given to an ambitious scheme to distribute traditional media—such as magazines, film and music—on the Internet. Giant media companies such as Bertelsmann, Time Warner and Vivendi Universal had hoped to bypass traditional distributors and reach consumers directly via the World Wide Web.

When Time Warner and America Online merged in 2000 to create the world's largest media conglomerate, convergence was the main theme, with plans to distribute Time Warner's vast collection of movies, music, magazines, books and other content via wireless portable devices hooked to the 35 million subscribers of the AOL Internet service.

"Consumers want the Internet to play a greater role in their lives and are looking forward to the day when broadband can deliver all of a family's home entertainment, information and communication needs over a wide variety of devices," AOL founder Steve Case declared in late 2001, announcing a partnership with Sony.

That strategy was mirrored at Vivendi, where then chair Jean-Marie Messier invested and lost huge sums of money in an attempt to create a family of online sites to deliver Vivendi Universal's content via the Internet.

Middelhoff's signature convergence play was the purchase of Napster, the pioneering 70-million-member music-swapping website that was shut down for wholesale copyright infringement by the world's leading record companies.

Central to all these companies was the eventual existence of a family of gadgets that went beyond the computer, delivering content—and returning payments—in living rooms, automobiles and on the street.

These devices, which ranged from color screen high-end cell phones to Internet-linked home entertainment centers, were enthusiastically embraced by the "early adopters," users who had to have the latest gear.

Problems arose when early adopters turned out to be the only adopters of these new technologies. *AFP*

Japanese finance minister sees budget deficit rising

TOKYO—Japanese Finance Minister Masajuro Shiokawa said Tuesday that Japan's budget deficit would rise in 2003-04 because of a sharp drop in tax revenues.

"I think the gap will be larger than in fiscal 2002-03," he told a news conference. "How to fill the gap is a headache for us. It will be the biggest task in compiling the budget."

The government's problems will be compounded by its pledge to go ahead with tax cuts amounting to one trillion yen ($8.36 billion) next year in an attempt to revive the economy while trying to hold down government debts.

Japan's public debt mountain is approaching the equivalent of 140 percent of gross domestic product, the highest among leading industrialized nations, and Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi wants to reduce it as part of wide-ranging economic reforms.

To that end, the government has imposed a cap of 30 trillion yen on new bond issues in the current fiscal year to next March. *Reuters*

No relief for Japan's jobless; June rate near record

TOKYO—Japan's jobless rate was stuck just short of its record high at 5.4 percent in June, unchanged from May, as the effects of the country's worst recession in a generation lingered despite a hesitant export-driven recovery.

The number of people with jobs, including the self-employed, tumbled by 930,000 from a year earlier to 63.73 million for the 15th straight month of year-on-year falls, the Ministry of Public Management and Home Affairs said Tuesday.

Those without jobs numbered 3.68 million, up by 300,000 from a year ago and rising for the 15th straight month year-on-year, as companies pressed ahead with cost-cutting steps despite signs that business conditions were finally picking up.

The unemployment rate hit a postwar high of 5.5 percent in December and has now topped 5 percent for a full year.

The outlook too is bleak as Japan's recovery from its worst post-war recession is threatened by the yen's export-crimping rise and an increasingly fragile US economy.

"The overall economy is recovering, but the jobless rate seems to lag these changes. Even when business picks up, companies do not hire new workers immediately," a ministry official told a news conference.

The workforce participation rate rose slightly to 61.7 from 61.6 percent, suggesting more people are actively seeking work despite the lack of jobs.

Managers may be becoming more optimistic about business conditions, as suggested in the Bank of Japan's recent "tankan" survey, but they are still putting the priority on cutting costs.

Japan's Top 5 chipmaking conglomerates, including Mitsubishi Electric Corp., NEC Corp. and Fujitsu Ltd., cut nearly 70,000 jobs in the financial year that ended in March.

That is good news for Japan's long-term economic efficiency, but it is little comfort for workers whose jobs at big firms used to come with life-long guarantees. *Reuters*

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Consumer credit boom gives Thai economy a boost

BANGKOK—Thai banks are betting on consumers to help get them out of their loan growth slump despite worries that encouraging Thais to overspend on credit will once again force Thailand toward dangerous debt levels.

Thai banks are lumbered with 600 billion baht ($14.61 billion) of excess liquidity, partly due to reluctance to lend money to companies for fear of adding to the billions of baht in non-performing loans that sparked the last economic crisis.

So they are taking heed of an economic recovery led by strong domestic consumption and looking to consumers as fertile ground for growing their loans, brushing aside concerns that Thais will spend money they don't have and end up in trouble.

All types of consumer credit are on the rise, including personal loans for big-ticket purchases and mortgages, but credit card spending has been a key engine of the consumer boom.

Analysts say consumer credit has built-in advantages for institutions stung by defaults on corporate loans—credit lines can be cut, banks can check on the payment history of applicants, and a few individual defaulters will hardly cause a crisis.

"When you look at it, one individual and how much money, it doesn't add up to much," said Chom Sumanaseni, president of the Thai Credit Bureau. "If you pull a single blade of grass out, it's not going to kill the whole yard."

But some economists warn that if the economy slows, the risk of mass consumer debt defaults could be a danger.

"If the economy slows down, unemployment will set in, incomes will go down," said Thanomsri Fongarun-rung, an economist at Merrill Lynch Phatra. "So non-performing loans become more of a possibility, and banks can get saddled with bad debts again." *Reuters*

Thai PM insists rubber alliance to go ahead

BANGKOK—Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra said Tuesday that Thailand would partner fellow leading rubber producers Indonesia and Malaysia next month despite controversy over recent Thai sales of the commodity.

He said Thailand would honor its commitment to join the International Tripartite Rubber Organization (Itro), an alliance grouping the world's top three rubber producers aimed, in part, at boosting prices.

"Nothing has changed. The signing of the agreement will take place on August 6 in Indonesia," he told reporters at Government House.

The decision to sell 130,000 tons of stockpiled rubber to Singaporean traders earlier this month astonished opposition leaders who called for a commission to investigate the deal, which they said was fraught with irregularities.

Democrat MPs and a Senate committee on agriculture charged the sale was below market value, and that such a large release of stockpiled rubber would cause prices to plummet, Thai media said.

Local newspapers also reported Jakarta was displeased with Thailand's release of its stockpile and wanted to delay signing of the ITRO contract and cut its initial capital investment in the alliance.

Thaksin shrugged off the reports, saying, "It will not affect Thailand at all."

The three nations endorsed the creation of the ITRO last November, with pledges to contribute a total $225 million to it. *AFP*

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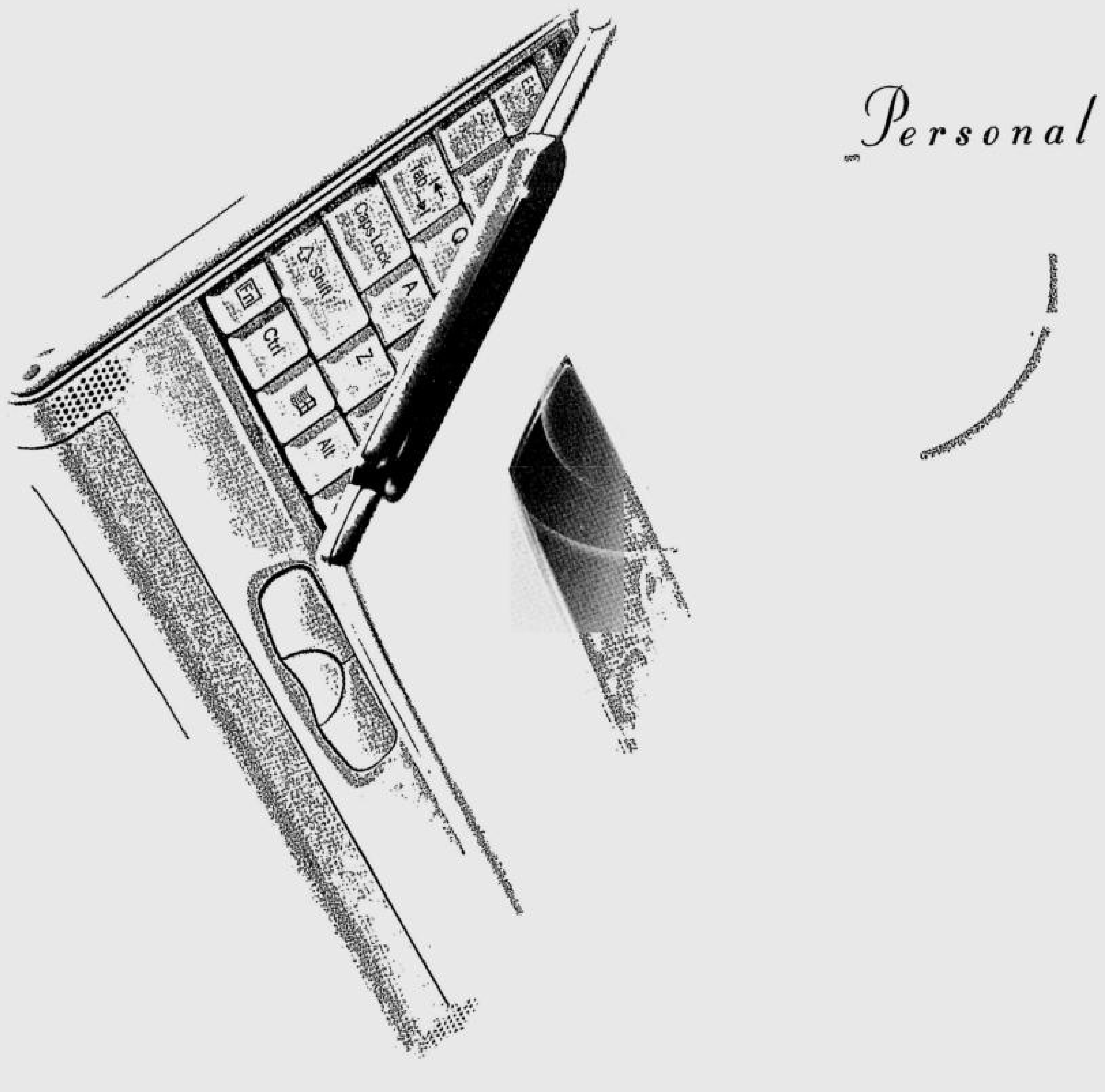
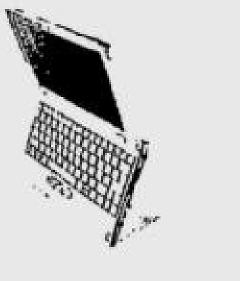


LIFEBOOK



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"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened,
and I will give you rest."

Matthew 11:28

BIENVENIDO LIM RILLO

of Calamba, Laguna and Quezon City

Peacefully joined his Creator on July 30, 2002
at the age of 85.

His bereaved wife **Gaying**; children **Benjie**, **Bobby**, **Jojo** and **Diane**; grandchildren **Jodian**, **Jodine** and **Jenzel**; sister **Lilia Perez**; brother **Pepito**; in-laws, nephews, nieces, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Shrine Parish, Doña Juana Rodriguez Ave. (Broadway), New Manila, Quezon City.

Cremation will follow after the 8:00 a.m. Mass on Saturday, August 3, 2002 at the Holy Family Chapel, Mt. Carmel.

Rosita Dimataga Almendras

Born on the 16th of November 1919
Peacefully joined our Creator on the 29th of July 2002

Loving wife of the late **Penong D. Almendras**; mother of **Agnes & Arse Magpale**, **Lito & Lisa**, **Ruben & Linda**, **Ome & Riza**, **Eva & Ernie Olympia**, **Rene & Marides**; grandchildren **Ina & Ferdie**, **Paolo**, **Archieboy** (deceased), **Miguel**, **Dax & Porscha**, **Sean & Gemma**, **Liza & Reno**, **Ian**, **Anya**, **Pia**, **Sam**, **Jason**, **Leandro**, **Jed**, **Joey**, **Janeen**, **Jihan**, **Raj**, **Ari**, **Aga**, **Noel**, **Marian**; great grandchildren **Ava**, **Sabine**, **Gian**, **Ella**, **Mikaela** and **Ysabel**. Her immediate family, brother, sisters and other relatives mourn her passing and pray for her eternal rest.

Her remains lie in state at the Cosmopolitan Homes, Nivel Hills Lahug on July 29-30, 2002 and shall be transferred to Danao City on July 31, 2002. Burial will be on August 3, 2002 after a Requiem Mass at 2:00 p.m. at the Danao City Parish Church.

Our Dearly Beloved

Cunigunda Andres Dimagiba

Peacefully joined our Lord on July 29, 2002
at the age of 79.

Her children **Jesus** and **Luz Dimagiba**, **Neriza** and **Nap Cinco**, **Meluna** and **Juanito Magbuhos**; grandchildren, great grandchildren, sister, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at 191 Col. Guido Street, Angono, Rizal.

Interment will be on Friday, August 2, 2002 after the 2:00 PM Mass in St. Clement Parish Church at the Holy Gardens Memorial Park, Angono, Rizal.

"My soul finds rest to God alone from Him comes my salvation"
Psalm 62:2

Our Dearly Beloved Daddy

Capt. PABLO B. CELEDONIO

1932 - 2002

Now peacefully rests in the Infinite Grace and Goodness of the Lord on the 25th of July 2002 at the age of 70.

His loving wife **Lourdes** (former Ms. **Lourdes B. Quijano** of Siasi, Sulu); children and children-in-laws **Roy** and **Grace**, **Sonny** and **Me-ann**, **Cindy**, **Ramil**, and **Gian Carlo**; grandchildren **Jose Gabriel** and **Miguel Alberto**, **Maikee** and **Marc Brian**; other relatives and friends request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels, Garden Suite, Guadalupe, City of Makati.

A Holy Mass will be offered on Thursday, 1st of August 2002, 9:00 AM at the Loyola Memorial Chapel, Garden Suite, Guadalupe, City of Makati.

Interment will follow at Heavens Gate I Memorial Park, Antipolo City.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

1. Copy of Death Certificate
2. Any identification document (I.D.)

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DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS
FREE OBIT DESIGN

"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again."

2 Corinthians 5:4-5

"Our dearly beloved Daddy,
you will be forever in our hearts."

CATALINO B. MONTEBLANCO, SR.

Peacefully joined our Creator on July 29, 2002
at the age of 85.

His loving wife **Milagros**; children and in-laws **Cielito & Eva**, **Magdalena & Carlos**, **Marietta & Antonio**, **Catalino Jr.** and **Cecil & Consuelo**; and grandchildren **Karen**, **Eric**, **Mary Jane**, **Elizabeth**, **Stephen**, **Alan**, **Carlos Jr.**, **Precilla**, **Maria Antonia**, **Francis**, **Brian**, **Carlo** and **Calvin**; great grandchildren and other relatives request all readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family residence at Burgos Street, Hinigaran, Negros Occidental.

Interment will be on Saturday, August 3, 2002 at Hinigaran Catholic Cemetery after the 9:00 a.m. Funeral Mass at the St. Mary Magdalene Church.

Our Dearly Beloved

Judge Manuel C. Diosomito (Ret.)

of Naic, Cavite

Peacefully joined our Lord on July 29, 2002
at the age of 86.

His loving wife **Lydia** (†); children **Manuelito** (**Boyeth**) and **Tes**, **Leilani** and **Tedy**, **Nelson & Tess**; grandchildren, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family residence in Zamora Street, Naic, Cavite.

Interment will be on Sunday, August 4, 2002 at the Naic Catholic Cemetery after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at the Naic Catholic Church.

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

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DULCE MEMORIAL SERVICES
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FLORESCO FUNERAL HOME
219 Gen. Luna St., Concepcion, Malabon, Metro Manila
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National Power Corporation
Small Power Utilities Group
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID

For the SALE of Waste Oil

"as is, where is"

Date of Bid Opening : August 15, 2002

ITEM DESCRIPTION/LOCATION	MINIMUM BID PRICE
532,400 Liters of WASTE OIL (Bunker) at Power Barge 103, Bo. Obrero, Iloilo City	P 2.00/Li

Sealed bids in the prescribed form shall be received until the abovestated date, 10:00 AM at NPC-SPUG Office, 3/F Bldg. 1, NPC-OBC, Quezon Ave. cor. Agham Rd., Diliman, Q.C. and shall then and there be opened and publicly read.

ALL BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE FOLLOWING:

1. PROPOSAL BOND DEPOSIT IN THE FORM OF CASH OR MANAGER'S CHECK EQUIVALENT TO TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE TOTAL BID PRICE; and
2. LATEST INCOME TAX RETURN OF THE BIDDER (2001) OR FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE COMPANY (ORIGINAL OR BIR CERTIFIED TRUE COPY)
3. ANY OF THE FF. DOCUMENTS:
   For Treater/Recycler : DENR Hazardous Waste Generator's ID
   For Transporter : DENR Certificate of Registration

Additional information, request for inspection and bid forms at P50.00 per set may be secured from Ms. P.F. VICTORIA at the above address or call Tel. No. 9228449/9213541 Local 5583.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality found therein and to accept/reject such proposals as may be advantageous to its interest.

SPUG ASSET MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

(Sgd.) **R. C. CASTILLO**
Chairman

(PDI--July 31, Aug. 1 & 2, 2002)

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INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION/ELIGIBILITY AND BIDDING

The PNOC - Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) invites Contractors classified by and registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) as IAC Medium Sub-Category A in General Building - Building and Industrial Plant to apply for prequalification/eligibility and if subsequently found eligible, to bid for the project:

CONSTRUCTION of CORE SHELTERS and MULTI-PURPOSE HALL for the NNGP RELOCATION VILLAGE under Bid/Project No. EDC 02-104

The work calls for the supply of labor, supervision, materials, equipment, tools, consumables, and other services necessary for the construction of twenty five (25) units Core Houses and one (1) unit Multi Purpose Hall and other works called for at Bago City, Negros Occidental.

The Prequalification/eligibility forms may be secured from the Contracts Administration Group (c/o Raymond Sison) starting **July 24, 2002, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Hundred Pesos (P100.00).

The prequalification/eligibility documents must be submitted to the Contracts Administration Group not later than 5:00 p.m. of **August 8, 2002.**

Bid documents shall be issued to eligible Contractors starting **August 21, 2002** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00).

The pre-bid conference and site inspection for said project shall be announced later.

Sealed bids in three (3) sets shall be received by the Contracts Administration Group at the above address **not later than 2:00 p.m. of September 19, 2002** and then to be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

PNOC - EDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to PNOC-EDC.

(Sgd.) Ester R. Guerzon
Manager, Operations
Services Division

(PDI--July 31, 2002)

PNOC - Energy Development Corporation
Energy Complex, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Makati City
Telephone 893-1320 local 5265

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND BID

The PNOC - Energy Development Corporation invites eligible suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following.

250 KVA Diesel Engine Generator Set under FGJ-22107
and
360 mtrs PIPE; CARBON STEEL SA W/ERW, 30"O x 12M x S30
24 mtrs PIPE; CARBON STEEL SA W/ERW, 20"O x 12M x S30
384 mtrs PIPE; CARBON STEEL SA W/ERW, 18"O x 12M x S30
312 mtrs PIPE; CARBON STEEL SA W/ERW, 16"O x 12M x S30
132 mtrs PIPE; CARBON STEEL SA W/ERW, 14"O x 12M x S30
under FGJ - 22418

This invitation is open to all eligible suppliers of PNOC-Energy Development Corporation. Prospective bidders not presently pre-qualified with PNOC-Energy Development Corporation shall submit their pre-qualification documents not later than fourteen (14) days before the deadline for the submission of the bids. The bids of prospective (but not yet pre-qualified) bidders who fail to submit their pre-qualification documents before the above deadline or those who fail to meet the company's pre-qualification requirement on the bid deadline shall be rejected and returned unopened.

Bid documents shall be available for issuance at the above address c/o Mr. Raffy S. Teylan starting July 9, 2002 and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00 per document.

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, a pre-bidding conference will be held on July 18, 2002, (FGJ-22107) and July 19, 2002, (FGJ-22418) at 2:00 p.m. at the above address.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security to be issued by the local agent/distributor, if any, with the amount indicated in the tender document, in the form acceptable to PNOC-EDC and must be delivered to the above office on or before 2:00 p.m. of August 8, 2002, (FGJ-22107) and August 9, 2002, (FGJ-22418). Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. Late bids shall not be accepted.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for PNOC-EDC's action.

(Sgd.) SERGIO ANTONIO F. APOSTOL
Chairman/President/C.E.O.

(PDI -- July 12 & 31, 2002)

FORECLOSURE NO. 02-1792

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION
MANILA

OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT & EX-OFFICIO SHERIFF

NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE

Upon extra-judicial petition for sale under Act 3135, as amended by Act 4118, filed on January 8, 2002 by DBS BANK PHILIPPINES, INC. (formerly known as Bank of Southeast Asia, Inc.), Mortgagee, with postal address at DBS Bank of the Philippines, Inc., 4/F BPI Family Savings Bank, Inc., Paseo de Roxas corner Dela Rosa Street, Makati City, pursuant to the terms and condition of the real estate mortgage contract dated August 16, 2000, executed by EDGARDO M. AQUINO, Mortgager, with residence and postal address at No. 20-o Legaspi Tower, Roxas Blvd., Manila, in favor of the DBS Bank Philippines, Inc. (formerly known as Bank of Southeast Asia, Inc.), in order to satisfy the indebtedness in the total sum of TWO MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED SEVENTY NINE THOUSAND THIRTY FIVE & 06/100 (P2,879,035.06) Philippine Currency as of January 4, 2002 inclusive of interest, penalties plus Sheriff's fees and other legal charges, etc., the undersigned Clerk of Court & Ex-Officio Sheriff of RTC, Manila thru her Sheriff IV Oscar L. Rojas, will sell at public auction to the highest bidder on August 20, 2002, a 10:00 in the morning but not later than 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon in front of the main entrance of the City Hall Building, Manila, facing Philippine Normal University, to the highest bidder for CASH and Philippine Currency the real property including its improvement existing thereon which is described as follows, to wit:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 188447

A parcel of land (Lot No. 19 of Block No. 1412 of the Cadastral Survey of the City of Manila, Cadastral Case No. 43, GLRO Cad. Rec. No. 204), with the Building of light materials existing thereon, situated in the District of Sta. Ana. Bounded on the NE, by Lot No. 20 of Block No. 1412; on the SE, by Lot No. 21 of Block No. 1412; on the SW, by Lot Nos. 11, 17 and 18 of Block No. 1412; and on the NW, by Lot Nos. 18 and 34 of Block No. 142. x x x containing an area of TWO HUNDRED TWENTY SIX SQUARE METERS AND SEVENTY SQUARE DECIMETERS (226.70), MORE OR LESS. x x x

Prospective bidders or buyers may investigate and verify for themselves the title mentioned above and encumbrances thereon, if any there be.

City of Manila, Philippines, January 30, 2002.

(Sgd.) **JESUSA P. MANINGAS**
Clerk of Court & Ex-Officio Sheriff

(Sgd.) **OSCAR L. ROJAS**
Sheriff-In-Charge

(PDI--July 31, Aug. 7 & 14, 2002)

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The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER enjoys the biggest circulation and readership among all the major broadsheets in the country. It has a dominant market share of over 55% according to the 2000 Asia Research Organization (ARO) Tri-Media Study.

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Pabayo-Pacana Streets, Cagayan de Oro City
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Cagayan de Oro City
Tel. No. (088) 857-2571/857-1612
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E-mail grandstar@hotmail.com
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Marquez News and Magazine Agency
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(fronting Galleria Hotel)
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GSC Newscenter, Dimalanta Building
35 Pioneer Avenue, General Santos City
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Edmar News - Advertising Agency
Bonifacio Street, Pagadian City
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Marlen's Variety Store, 86-88 Sevilla Street
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Tel. Nos. (062) 991-4294/991-1438
Mr. Ruben Bautista
#71 C. Atilano Street, Zamboanga
Tel. Nos. (062) 991-2965/
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OBITUARIES

LIM ENG YONG

of Masbate, Masbate and Manila City

Died on July 27, 2002 at the age of 87.

His bereaved wife **MARY**; children **HENRY & BONITA, HELEN & JUANITO, WILLIAM & NANCY, WILLY, CHARLIE & JEAN**; and grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, August 4, 2002 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at the Faith Chapel.

ESMERALDA LOBO MONFORTE

of Gamu, Isabela
July 14, 1917 - July 28, 2002

Her beloved husband **LUIS C. MONFORTE SR.** (+); children and children-in-law **EVA & ROGER AQUINO, THELMA & FRED BORDAJE, NENA & TED CORPUS, ROSE, LUIS JR.** (+), **VITA, GORETTE & DANNY ROA**; grandchildren, great grandchildren, sisters & brothers, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat Road, Parañaque City and will be transferred to Gamu, Isabela on July 31, 2002. Interment will be on Saturday, August 3, 2002 at the Gamu Catholic Cemetery after the 8:30 a.m. Mass.

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me though he may die, he shall live..." John 11:25

Nieves De La Peña Cruz

of Marikina City
Former Citibank Employee

Peacefully joined her Creator on July 27, 2002
in Surrey, BC, Canada at the age of 76.

Her bereaved husband **Donato**, children **Elizabeth & Danny Guerrero, Edwin & Carmen Cruz**; grandchildren **Jerome, John Conrad, Denise, Jamey, Alyssa, Patricia**; sisters **Fe, Chi, Rita, Fenny**; **brothers Pinky & Tino**; brothers & sisters-in-law, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Interment will be on July 31, 2002 at the Valley View Memorial Gardens, Surrey, BC after the 10AM Mass at St. Bernadette Parish.

Manila Memorial Park
Sucat Columbarium

A different kind of repository
for the cremated remains of your loved ones.

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For more information, please contact
815-1875, 815-1885, 815-1890, 893-8374 (loc. 298)

Our Dearly Beloved Daddy

PASTOR ORTIZ TINIO

of San Isidro, Nueva Ecija

peacefully joined our Creator on July 26, 2002
at the age of 77.

His loving wife **Lydia Salazar**; children **Espie** and **Lemuel Garcellano, Obet** and **Rellie Raymundo, Larry** and **Rose Carrasco, Anging** and **Julie Toledo, Chi** and **Lauro de la Cruz, Raquel** and **Manny Valenzuela, Tess** and **Obet Celosa**; grandchildren **Laya , Manuel, Ute, Anto, Diday, Michael, Anna, Panga, Aris, Kathleen, Edison, Stevenson, Jay Anne, Jo Anne, Joyce Anne, Julie Anne Isabel, Hanna, Tracy, Jay Jay**; sisters **Flora** and **Dely**; great grandchild **Benjo**, relatives and friends request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at No. 6 Bagong Lote St., Potrero, Malabon.

Cremation will follow at the Eternal Gardens Crematorium after the 8:00 a.m. Mass on Thursday, August 1, 2002.

email: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph

PEOPLE at WORK

Editor **Raul O. Marcelo** ● Subsection Editor **Regina Galang Reyes**

Rules for success change with the times

By **Ernie O. Cecilia**

IE RULES of success are con- ntly being rewritten, as the siness of doing business is be- g radically altered by globaliza- n, information/communica- n technology (ICT) and other gnificant change drivers.

Here are the new ABCs of success that apply in these times.

Avoid burnout-manage your time, emotions and finances. You'll never succeed in life and reer today if you experience rnout and stress. If in the past u have to work your butt out, day you must have a good bal- ıce between professional and personal life.

Beware of the boss who promises to build a bridge where there is no river. Your boss continues to be a major factor in your career success. But you don't ve to stick it out with a boss u can't rely on. If you haven't ceived the raise or promotion ur boss promised five years o, maybe it's time to find an- her boss.

Celebrate your victories. Define your concept of success and mark your journey to success with milestones. As soon as you reach one, celebrate your victory.

Develop your value proposi- n. You and I are salesmen-in ct, we are all for sale! You must ve a value proposition, an im- cit promise of value to any- dy you deal with-customer, nployer or organization. Then, eliver on that promise.

Enjoy your work. All this time, had been told to work hard. at's why for most people, work s become unsavory and rest is rvana. Look at your work as a urce of joy and love. Love it or leave it!

Find a need and fill it-before others do. If nobody needs you or your skills, products, or services, you'll have very little chance of proving your worth. If you want to succeed, find a niche where you can be the best. Don't just sit there; look for it-before others find it.

Get a good mentor. It pays to learn from the best, have a good coach or get a friend who can teach you what you need to learn in order to succeed. Even self-made successful people had to learn from some other successful people at some time in their lives. Why shouldn't you?

Have a fallback position. Know how, when and where to go when a situation becomes untenable. Being an excellent performer or-working in a profitable organization is no longer a guarantee of success. Thousands of great performers have lost their jobs and hundreds of great companies have folded up.

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AlRodriguez

Albert Rodriguez

Look beyond the classroom. Education helps ensure success. But don't let schooling interfere with your education. There is education beyond the classroom-in fact, real education takes place in the real world, not within the corners of the classroom.

Master the technology of business and the business of technology. To succeed, know your business. Today, you need to also know technology and how it can help to make doing business or doing your job faster, better and more effective.

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You are responsible for your own future. Never abdicate the responsibility for your success to other people or institutions. Nobody is as interested as you are about your success. Nobody else should claim credit for your success, and you can't blame anyone else for your failure.

Zeal and enthusiasm help create a positive impact. Most successful people have the energy, zeal and enthusiasm that further enhance the positive impact that they create about their persona. Always make the greatest performance of your life every time you make a presentation, meet with your boss or clients, and in every way possible.

(Mr. Cecilia is the president and CEO of EC Business Solutions and Career Center. He can be reached at ec4u@ecbusiness.com.ph and at www.ecbusiness.com.ph. His career books "How to Get a Job" and "How to Keep Your Job" are available in National Book Store, Power Books, and Bookmark.)

EADERSHIP CHALLENGE

'Create corporate cultures that reward integrity'

y **Manuel V. Pangilinan**

POSTCARDS *from the* **CORPORATE EDGE**

(Last March, People at Work ublished the speech of John okongwei Jr. at the Ateneo de lanila University. We received nu- erous feedback on the speech, in- icating that readers are curious bout what our business leaders ve to say and share.

This issue, we are sharing with r readers the keynote address of LDT president and CEO Manuel Pangilinan at the recently held Ist Asian Conference on Corporate Social Responsibility in which he shares his reflections on what cor- porate management must do to lfill their obligations as corpo- ate citizens. - PaW Ed.)

FOR many years corporate social esponsibility (CSR) has been en as something of a contradic- on in terms. The point of being business has always been to make profits, with responsibility anyone other than customers, ents and shareholders not always seen by senior executives of me companies as a high prior- . But over the last decade, and particularly in recent months, with the highly publicized accounting scandals emanating from the United States, CSR has climbed up the corporate agenda, as the global community becomes increasingly angered by the impact that corporate misconduct has on our society.

Ethical standards

Because of this, CSR, as currently practiced, reflects not only a desire of corporations to meet their social mandate, but also an imperative for them to adhere to increasingly higher ethical standards. CSR and good corporate governance are therefore inextricably linked. And it is clear that they are also linked to business success. Corporate social responsibility, like good governance, ultimately creates long-term value for shareholders because of the premium that consumers, investors and others place on companies that are seen to be socially responsible.

In the wake of the recent spate of corporate misconduct incidents by firms such as Enron and WorldCom, the challenge for senior executives is to remain open to entrepreneurial thinking without compromising the key elements of good corporate governance. These elements include the protection of the rights of all shareholders, constituting an effective board of directors, competent and ethical management, and accurate and timely disclosures.

Market confidence

Moving forward, market confidence in a company will be particularly influenced by the extent to which its board is actively involved in looking after the interests of all shareholders. Although Enron's board of directors said that they didn't know about the company's risky accounting techniques, according to a recent US Senate report, its members ignored warning signs and condoned the high-risk practices that led to the energy trader's collapse.

Enron and WorldCom are not isolated cases. An alarming number of weaknesses in disclosure and accounting practices by major international corporations have been highlighted in recent months. What does emerge from these incidents is that the boards of those companies have not been asking enough tough questions, and that it has been far too easy for the parties involved to pass blame-the board pointing to the management team, the management team accusing the auditors, and the auditors condemning the rules.

The challenge today, and in the years to come, is to create corporate cultures that encourage and reward integrity as much as they value entrepreneurship. To do this, the senior management team, especially the CEO, must not only be exemplary stewards of corporate assets, they must also serve as the moral compass of the company. The best insurance against the perils of crossing the ethical divide is transparency.

A CEO must actively encourage his team to be open both in their decision-making process and their reporting relationships. By advocating transparency and debate, the senior management team creates a climate where misconduct does not go unnoticed or unpunished. That is the challenge of leadership-to create an environment where honesty is paramount, where integrity emanates from the top and builds success from the ground.

Social impact

All business enterprises, whether they be large, medium or small, have an impact on society beyond their established role of providing goods and services for a profit. Businesses do have the power to transform societies.

At PLDT, not only are we promoting good governance practices, we are also seeking to make a positive difference in the communities where we operate. Our social outreach arm is the PLDT Foundation, whose community service objective is to deliver improved communications to low income communities, particularly to rural areas. Our flagship project, "CODE-WAN"-Countryside Development Using Wide Area Network-utilizes PLDT's nationwide digital fiber optic network to provide critical communications links among NGOs, government agencies and official funding organizations.

PANGILINAN

Being in a position to contribute to the community in this way is core to our greater objective of not only optimizing returns to our shareholders, but in doing so, making a vital contribution to the social well-being of the Philippines.

Public demand

For the first time in history, the global business community is witnessing public demand for companies to take tangible action to address the challenge of corporate social responsibility. We have seen the pain and hardship caused by the poor corporate social responsibility in the United States, and elsewhere around the world.

As we consider how best to address this issue in our own region, one thing is clear. Companies in Asia must take action to meet this challenge by performing in a manner that exceeds legal, commercial, investor and public expectations. Only by taking the intitative before stakeholders come to demand it can companies ensure that they will be a significant force in effecting positive social change, while at the same time helping to create long-term value for their shareholders.

(Send feedback to rreyes@inquirer.com.ph*)*

How do you end a job interview?

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

DEAR WW: I have a bet with a friend. He says you should end job interviews by asking if you got the job. I think you should be more low-key in order to leave a good impression. Who wins?

To Push Or Not To Push

When I think of pushy, I think Matt Glickman. Forced to miss rt of the NCAA Basketball tour- ment because of the birth of his daughter, Matt swore that no one else should have to experience that kind of pain. So at his childcare products web site he created "conception blocker." The cheduler looks nine months head so you can plan your child's rth knowing you won't miss any of 92 different sporting events.

Like it or not, Matt's got a plan for taking control. And like it or not, you've got to take control and be a bit pushy at the end of an interview if you hope to deliver a new job. I turned to the 1999 edition of "What Color Is Your Parachute" (Ten Speed Press, 1998) by Richard Bolles. If you think you've already seen what "Parachute" has to offer, think again. Although it's updated every year, in the '99 edition Bolles did a major overhaul and removed 200 pages. I've adapted the following questions from it.

1. Can you offer me this job? Bolles reports that an astounding number of job seekers get the job simply by asking for it directly. (If you aren't interviewing for a specific job then ask, "Given my skills and experience is there work here for me?")

2. Do you want me to come back for another interview? Even though all you can think of is getting offered the job, you'll score points by acknowledging the process the company has to go through in order to fill it.

3. When may I expect to hear from you? Bolles suggests that you not leave all the control in their hands. Probe politely to learn their hiring timeframe.

4. When is the latest I can expect to hear from you? In the previous question you were looking for the "best case" scenario. Here you're looking for the worst. Which is important, since the worst is probably more realistic.

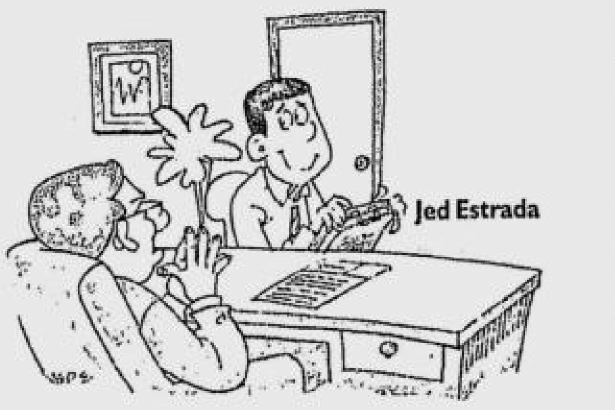
5. May I contact you after that date if I haven't heard from you? Not every employer will appreciate this question but it's valuable to ask, if for no other reason than to maintain your sanity. And look at it this way: if they're offended by this bit of assertiveness on your part, is this a place you really want to work in?

6. (If they answer "no" to any of the questions above) Can you think of anyone else who might hire me? Speaking from personal experience, some of the best leads I've ever gotten have followed a "no." A "no" shouldn't signal the end of the road, just a shift to a new phase in your information gathering process.

Hopefully these tips will give you a sporting chance of conceiving that new job. Good luck!

Here are the results of our last working-wounded.com/ABC-news.com poll: If you haven't heard anything two weeks after a job interview, what do you do?

- Nothing, I'll give them more time, 2.1 percent
- Move on, there are other fish in the sea, 24.6 percent
- Call, I want them to remember me, 73.1 percent



Jed Estrada

Our winning strategy for ending a job interview is from Amber H. in Marina Del Rey, CA. "During a job interview the interviewer was clipping his nails and appeared disinterested. I took this personally. So I asked him, 'are your nails more important than my interview? If so, I will be happy to reschedule another time to meet with you.' He dropped his clippers and we proceeded to have a great interview. At the end I said, 'I am confident we will have a very lucrative business relationship. Is the job mine?' He offered me the job on the spot."

(Send feedback to bob@workingwounded.com*)*

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(Mr. Cecilia is the president and CEO of EC Business Solutions and Career Center. He can be reached at ec4u@ecbusiness.com.ph and at www.ecbusiness.com.ph. His career books "How to Get a Job" and "How to Keep Your Job" are available in National Book Store, Power Books, and Bookmark.)

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POSTCARDS *from the* **CORPORATE EDGE**

(Last March, People at Work ublished the speech of John Gokongwei Jr. at the Ateneo de Manila University. We received numerous feedback on the speech, indicating that readers are curious bout what our business leaders ave to say and share.

This issue, we are sharing with ur readers the keynote address of LDT president and CEO Manuel Pangilinan at the recently held 1st Asian Conference on Corporate Social Responsibility in which he shares his reflections on what corporate management must do to fulfill their obligations as corporate citizens. - PaW Ed.)

FOR many years corporate social responsibility (CSR) has been seen as something of a contradiction in terms. The point of being in business has always been to make profits, with responsibility to anyone other than customers, clients and shareholders not always seen by senior executives of me companies as a high priority. But over the last decade, and particularly in recent months, with the highly publicized accounting scandals emanating from the United States, CSR has climbed up the corporate agenda, as the global community becomes increasingly angered by the impact that corporate misconduct has on our society.

Ethical standards

Because of this, CSR, as currently practiced, reflects not only a desire of corporations to meet their social mandate, but also an imperative for them to adhere to increasingly higher ethical standards. CSR and good corporate governance are therefore inextricably linked. And it is clear that they are also linked to business success. Corporate social responsibility, like good governance, ultimately creates long-term value for shareholders because of the premium that consumers, investors and others place on companies that are seen to be socially responsible.

In the wake of the recent spate of corporate misconduct incidents by firms such as Enron and WorldCom, the challenge for senior executives is to remain open to entrepreneurial thinking without compromising the key elements of good corporate governance. These elements include the protection of the rights of all shareholders, constituting an effective board of directors, competent and ethical management, and accurate and timely disclosures.

Market confidence

Moving forward, market confidence in a company will be particularly influenced by the extent to which its board is actively involved in looking after the interests of all shareholders. Although Enron's board of directors said that they didn't know about the company's risky accounting techniques, according to a recent US Senate report, its members ignored warning signs and condoned the high-risk practices that led to the energy trader's collapse.

Enron and WorldCom are not isolated cases. An alarming number of weaknesses in disclosure and accounting practices by major international corporations have been highlighted in recent months. What does emerge from these incidents is that the boards of those companies have not been asking enough tough questions, and that it has been far too easy for the parties involved to pass blame-the board pointing to the management team, the management team accusing the auditors, and the auditors condemning the rules.

The challenge today, and in the years to come, is to create corporate cultures that encourage and reward integrity as much as they value entrepreneurship. To do this, the senior management team, especially the CEO, must not only be exemplary stewards of corporate assets, they must also serve as the moral compass of the company. The best insurance against the perils of crossing the ethical divide is transparency.

A CEO must actively encourage his team to be open both in their decision-making process and their reporting relationships. By advocating transparency and debate, the senior management team creates a climate where misconduct does not go unnoticed or unpunished. That is the challenge of leadership-to create an environment where honesty is paramount, where integrity emanates from the top and builds success from the ground.

Social impact

All business enterprises, whether they be large, medium or small, have an impact on society beyond their established role of providing goods and services for a profit. Businesses do have the power to transform societies.

At PLDT, not only are we promoting good governance practices, we are also seeking to make a positive difference in the communities where we operate. Our social outreach arm is the PLDT Foundation, whose community service objective is to deliver improved communications to low income communities, particularly to rural areas. Our flagship project, "CODE-WAN"-Countryside Development Using Wide Area Network-utilizes PLDT's nationwide digital fiber optic network to provide critical communications links among NGOs, government agencies and official funding organizations.

PANGILINAN

Being in a position to contribute to the community in this way is core to our greater objective of not only optimizing returns to our shareholders, but in doing so, making a vital contribution to the social well-being of the Philippines.

Public demand

For the first time in history, the global business community is witnessing public demand for companies to take tangible action to address the challenge of corporate social responsibility. We have seen the pain and hardship caused by the poor corporate social responsibility in the United States, and elsewhere around the world.

As we consider how best to address this issue in our own region, one thing is clear. Companies in Asia must take action to meet this challenge by performing in a manner that exceeds legal, commercial, investor and public expectations. Only by taking the intitative before stakeholders come to demand it can companies ensure that they will be a significant force in effecting positive social change, while at the same time helping to create long-term value for their shareholders.

(Send feedback to rreyes@inquirer.com.ph*)*

How do you end a job interview?

DEAR WW: I have a bet with a friend. He says you should end job interviews by asking if you got the job. I think you should be more low-key in order to leave a good impression. Who wins?

To Push Or Not To Push

When I think of pushy, I think Matt Glickman. Forced to miss art of the NCAA Basketball tournament because of the birth of his daughter, Matt swore that no one else should have to experience that kind of pain. So at his child-care products web site he created a "conception blocker." The scheduler looks nine months ahead so you can plan your child's birth knowing you won't miss any of 92 different sporting events.

Like it or not, Matt's got a plan for taking control. And like it or not, you've got to take control and be a bit pushy at the end of an interview if you hope to deliver a new job. I turned to the 1999 edition of "What Color Is Your Parachute" (Ten Speed Press, 1998) by Richard Bolles. If you think you've already seen what "Parachute" has to offer, think again. Although it's updated every year, in the '99 edition Bolles did a major overhaul and removed 200 pages. I've adapted the following questions from it.

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

1. Can you offer me this job? Bolles reports that an astounding number of job seekers get the job simply by asking for it directly. (If you aren't interviewing for a specific job then ask, "Given my skills and experience is there work here for me?")

2. Do you want me to come back for another interview? Even though all you can think of is getting offered the job, you'll score points by acknowledging the process the company has to go through in order to fill it.

3. When may I expect to hear from you? Bolles suggests that you not leave all the control in their hands. Probe politely to learn their hiring timeframe.

4. When is the latest I can expect to hear from you? In the previous question you were looking for the "best case" scenario. Here you're looking for the worst. Which is important, since the worst is probably more realistic.

5. May I contact you after that date if I haven't heard from you? Not every employer will appreciate this question but it's valuable to ask, if for no other reason than to maintain your sanity. And look at it this way: if they're offended by this bit of assertiveness on your part, is this a place you really want to work in?

6. (If they answer "no" to any of the questions above) Can you think of anyone else who might hire me? Speaking from personal experience, some of the best leads I've ever gotten have followed a "no." A "no" shouldn't signal the end of the road, just a shift to a new phase in your information gathering process.

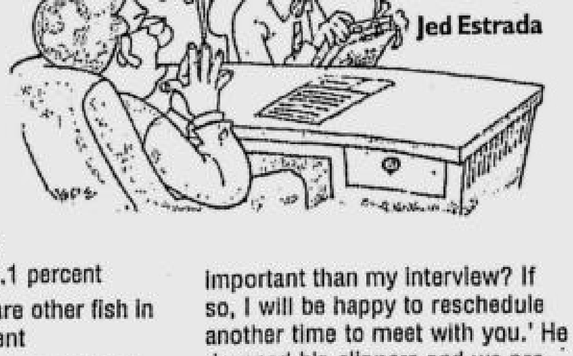
Hopefully these tips will give you a sporting chance of conceiving that new job. Good luck!

Here are the results of our last working-wounded.com/ABC-news.com poll: If you haven't heard anything two weeks after a job interview, what do you do?

* Nothing, I'll give them more time, 2.1 percent

* Move on, there are other fish in the sea, 24.6 percent

* Call, I want them to remember me, 73.1 percent



Jed Estrada

Our winning strategy for ending a job interview is from Amber H. in Marina Del Rey, CA. "During a job interview the interviewer was clipping his nails and appeared disinterested. I took this personally. So I asked him, 'are your nails more important than my interview? If so, I will be happy to reschedule another time to meet with you.' He dropped his clippers and we proceeded to have a great interview. At the end I said, 'I am confident we will have a very lucrative business relationship. Is the job mine?' He offered me the job on the spot."

(Send feedback to bob@workingwounded.com)

Find our creativity, innovativeness within

RECIPES *for* LEARNING

Moje Ramos-Aquino

TWO of the core competencies for leaders and leading companies are creativity and innovation. The good news is that everyone has the talent and capacity to be creative and innovative. Thus, companies (which are composed of a good number of people) naturally have a pool of creativity and innovativeness to draw from.

Creativity and innovation can improve as you use it. The more creative and innovative you are, the more creative and innovative you will be.

You're smiling. Yes, these statements are true. Knowing that everyone has scarce resources, how else have you lived your life as you did and still remain hopeful for a bright tomorrow? I am not referring to the lazy *puede na* and fatalistic *bahala na* attitudes that you might have sometimes resorted to in handling problems and moving towards your goals. It is not also '*gagawan ng paraan*' thinking or band-aid mentality. These attitudes are defeatist and they inhibit your creativity and innovation.

Positive attitude

I am referring to the attitude of handling frustration and failure with aplomb. Creative and innovative people are patient and know the importance of waiting. Creative and innovative people rise above failures and mistakes. Creative and innovative people do not seek perfection; they seek excellence.

It takes time and hard work for an idea to transform from seed to fruit. Along the way, there will be frustrating moments when things go haywire. Events, people and things follow Murphy's Law that something or everything will go wrong and fail. Good intentions alone do not ensure success. Many equate failure with incompetence, which are not mutually inclusive.

This is where you separate the men from the boys; the creative and innovative from the flash in the pan and pretenders. It is what is now referred to as emotional intelligence or positive attitude.

Self-assessment

How do you fare in this department? What were some of the frustrating experiences you've had? When was the last time you failed and what happened? Was it predictable or surprising? How did you handle it? How did it demonstrate the importance of waiting?

How did you manifest your frustrations? Were your frustrations followed by constructive behaviors at various times? How did you finally solve the problem or achieve your purpose? Did you settle for a *puede na iyan* solution? Were you happy with the results? How did failure spur your creativity and innovation? How did you feel about the results?

Frequent failures

Stefan Thomke advises his readers to fail early and often, but avoid mistakes. Mistakes according to him is repeating prior failures.

In the book "Harvard Business Review on Innovation," he wrote: "Experimenting with many diverse-and seemingly absurd-ideas is crucial to innovation. When a novel concept fails in an experiment, the failure can expose important gaps in knowledge. Such experiments are particularly desirable when they are performed early on so that unfavorable options can be eliminated quickly and people can refocus their efforts on more promising alternatives. Building the capacity for rapid experimentation in early development means rethinking the role of failure in organizations. Positive failure requires having a thick skin, says David Kelley, founder of IDEO, a leading design firm in California."

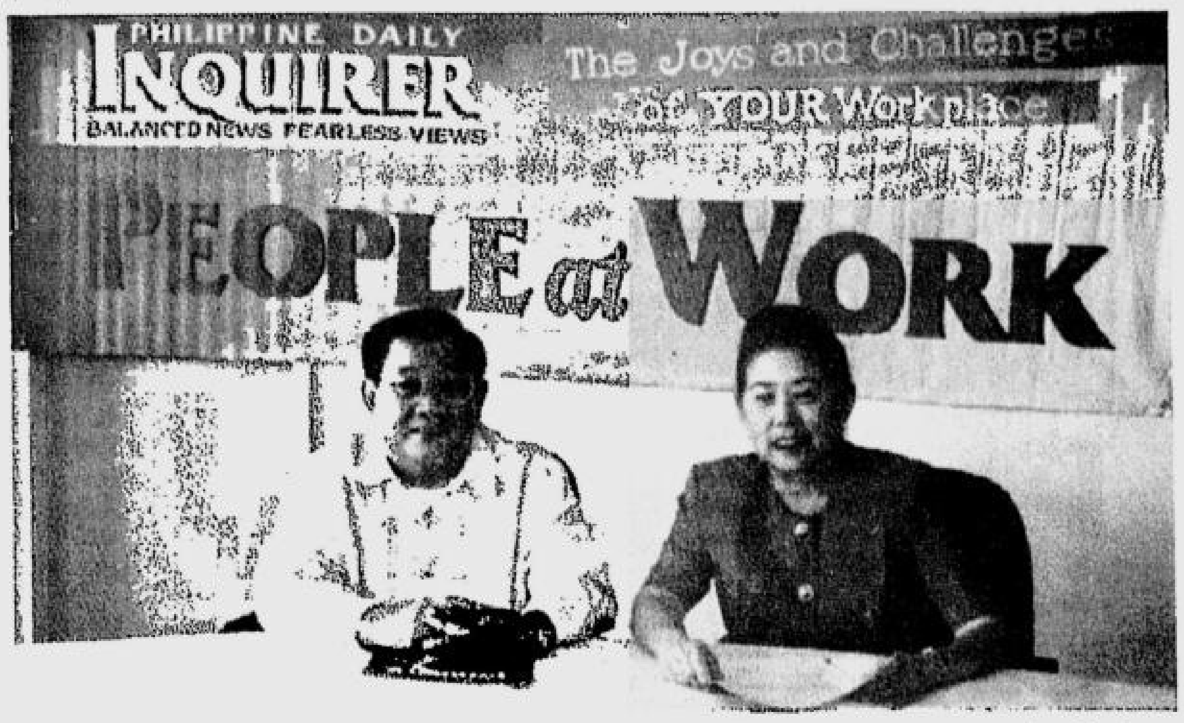
Learning from failure

Creativity and innovation differentiates a leader from a manager. A manager abhors and punishes failure while a leader celebrates failure. Failure exposes our weaknesses and, therefore, gives us the opportunity to do something about them. Failure produces valuable information and allows us to look at the situation from a different perspective. Failure hints at ideas that might be useful later. Failure offers a framework for figuring out a solution to the problem. Failure brings out the best in us and is, therefore, a cause for celebration.

The two important things to remember with failure is not to repeat it and to learn from it. My idol, Albert Einstein, calls repeating a mistake and expecting a different result, insanity.

Ready to be creative and innovative? Join us at the Bob Rosner Live! in Manila on August 15 at the Equitable PCIB Auditorium and at the Innovation Camp on August 16 at the Makati Sports Club. Call Optimus Managers & Advisors at tel. no. 414-0186 to get details and to register.

(Send feedback to Moje.Ramos@Aquino.ZZN.com)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PARTNERS ANEW. GMA Network Inc. and Philippine Daily Inquirer are partners once again, this time, to bring a special People at Work Live! Seminar Series, "Bob Rosner Live! In Manila" at popular ticket prices to the working public. Signing the agreement are (left) Atty. Felipe L. Gozon, Chairman, GMA Network, Inc. and (right) Marixi R. Prieto, Chair, Philippine Daily Inquirer.
Bob Rosner is the author of bestselling books *The Boss's Survival Guide* and *Working Wounded: Advice That Adds Insight to Injury*. He is an internationally syndicated columnist whose column, Working Wounded, appears in over 100 newspapers and magazines worldwide, including the People at Work/ Business Section of the Philippine Daily Inquirer. He will be presenting "12 Steps to Better Bossing" and "Managing Against the Odds (Advice for the Working Wounded) on August 15 at the Santiago Hall, Mezzanine, Equitable PCI Bank Tower 1, Makati Ave., Makati City. For more information or to register, visit any PDI Classified Ads branch or contact Optimus Managers & Advisors, Inc. at tel. no. 414-0186, or e-mail address optima@edsamail.com.ph. ROGER MARGALLO

BREAKFAST CHAT

How to develop synergistic relationships in an organization

By Ricky Garcia

MANY organizations are investing their resources-time, money and energy-in developing individuals to become contributing members of synergistic teams. Last Tuesday, the People at Work segment in Studio 23's Breakfast dealt on how to develop synergistic relationships in an organization. The guest was Dr. Ramon Ricardo Roque, a full professor in management and a member of the board of trustees of San Beda College. Below is the gist of the interview.

PaW: During times of change, how can a good leader build synergy among members of an organization?

Roque: Leaders need to build synergy among members in the organization because accomplishments of tasks and achievement of objectives are faster and better when there is synergy in the organization.

Synergy in simple mathematical analogy is 1 + 1 = 3. It may not seem logical, but it is nonetheless real and possible. Synergy is achieving more when people work together than when people work independently from one another.

Synergy thrives in an organization where real team spirit is present. The team members' creative potentials are unleashed by the team 's desire to succeed and to excel.

PaW: Can you suggest strategies to facilitate the process in building synergistic teams?

Roque: Real teams are synergistic. Without the synergy, so-called teams are nothing but groups of people.

For synergy to work in organizations, it must be founded on trust and we all know that trust is not earned overnight. The best strategy in building synergistic teams is to provide venues for more interaction among the members of the team. With such interaction, trust among the members is slowly and solidly developed.

Another effective strategy is to design tasks in such a way that a significant degree of interdependence is required. While individual excellence should be encouraged, it should not be to the detriment of promoting team excellence.

PaW: How can one harness the energy and creativity of different ideas in an organization?

Roque: The energy and creativity of different ideas in an organization can be harnessed by providing venues for the productive and positive use of such energies and the productive and positive-expression of such creativity. Once significant results are achieved, the source of the energy and creativity should be recognized. And whenever an expressed idea is not carried out, there should always be feedback to the source of the idea.

PaW: How do you overcome team discord?

Roque: A synergistic culture in an organization has a built-in mechanism that does not allow team discord or limits it to the minimum. While disagreements naturally ensue when open communication is allowed, a synergistic culture would weigh down the negative effect of such disagreements because of the values of trust, cooperation and team spirit in the organization.

ROQUE

PaW: What if individuals in your organization move from team to team during their tenure with the company?

Roque: That can be both positive and negative. It would provide venues for the concerned individuals to know more not only of the concerns and operations of other teams but also of the people in them. Such knowledge can contribute to the synergy in the organization as a whole.

PaW: What about organizations with no permanent leaders?

Roque:It is in organizations with no permanent leaders that we can highlight the importance of developing loyalty to the service, in the case of organizations in government, or loyalty to the cause and objectives of organizations, instead of loyalty to the leaders.

PaW: How do you sustain a healthy working alliance that produces synergistic relationships among employees?

Roque: Leaders should lead by example and show consistency in their commitment to the values of team spirit and synergy, which are actually the leaders' commitment to the success of the organization and its members.

INQUIRER
The Joys and Challenges of YOUR Workplace

GMA NETWORK INC. signs up as a presentor for "Bob Rosner Live! In Manila." Seated from left: Jimmy Alanis, VP, Sales for News & Public Affairs, Regional & Image One, GMA Marketing & Productions, Inc. ; Atty. Felipe L. Gozon, chair & CEO, GMA Network Inc., Marixi R. Prieto, chair, Philippine Daily Inquirer; Juan Reyes, Jr., President, Optimus Managers & Advisors, Inc. Standing from left: Rene Reinoso, PDI SVP Sales & Marketing; Nicanor Hidalgo, GMA Marketing & Productions, Inc. Sales Director for Regional & Image One; Ricky Garcia, Media Projects & Events Director, Optimus; Donald Lim, PDI Marketing Services Head; Regina Reyes, People at Work Editor. ROGER MARGALLO

PLDT signs up as a presentor for "Bob Rosner Live! In Manila. Seated from left are: Juan Reyes Jr., Optimus president; Butch Jimenez, PLDT VP for Media & Communications; Marixi R. Prieto, PDI chair; Rene Reinoso, PDI SVP for Sales & Marketing. JOHNNY VILLENA

Amrop Hever Phils. gets international award

AMROP Hever Philippines, an affiliate of global executive search firm The Amrop Hever Group, received the Chairman's Cup along with few others, for being one of the top cross-border search firms among Amrop Hever's 80 firms from 53 countries.

The award, given during Amrop Hever's annual conference held recently in Toronto, also cited the Philippine office as one of the top tier firms within the Group in terms of productivity, based on an industry study made by The Economist which covered all the major search firms around the world.

On hand to receive the awards was Jun Gil, founder and managing director of Amrop Hever Philippines.

In the same conference, Amrop Hever chair Ulrich Dade congratulated Amrop's partners, for having maintained the firm's position among the "Top 10" retained executive search companies in the world despite the worlwide recession. He released the latest world rankings of the top 10 firms based on the ERN Rankings published in the US as follows: Korn Ferry, Heidrick & Struggles, Egon Zehnder, Spencer Stuart, Russell Reynolds, Ray and Berndtson, Amrop Hever, TMP, Whitehead Mann and Intersearch.

The conference had as its keynote speaker Sir Graham Day, chair of Sobey's Inc., one of Canada's largest firms, and director of several corporation, including Bank of Nova Scotia, who spoke on "business leadership in uncertain times." The world conference of The Amrop Hever Group is held annually and rotated in major cities around the world such as Hong Kong, New York, Barcelona and Munich.

EDITOR'S PICKS

These books are available at Power Books Specialty Stores.

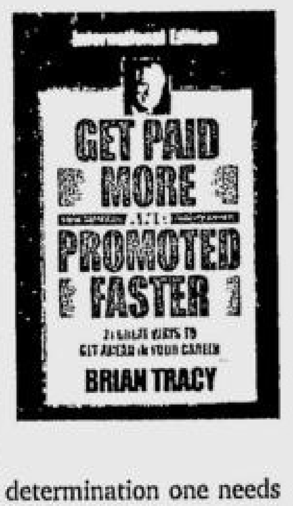
So You're New Again

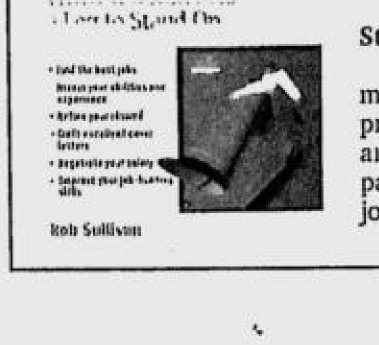
So You're New Again: How to Succeed When Your Change Jobs

Authors Elwood Holton III and Sharon Naquin teach in this book how one can learn to adapt to the culture of a new organization. Since career transition happens all the time, one must be equipped with the proper skills to fit in, get respected and earn credibility in the new company. This book is a step-by-step guide through the "breaking in" process and provides essential insights and tools for mastering the challenges of job transition.

Get Paid More and Promoted Faster

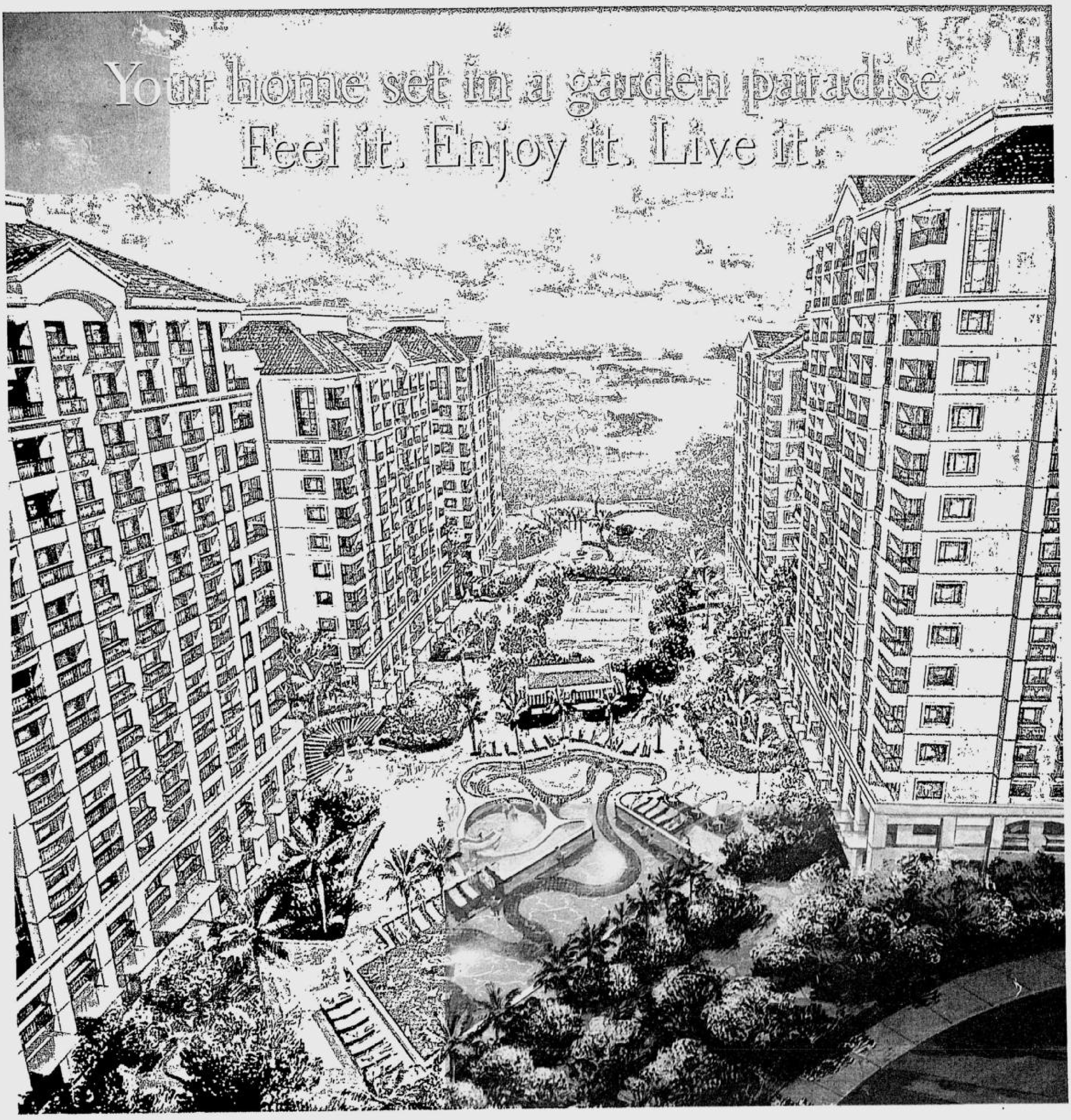
Discipline, dedication and determination. These virtues are what every employee must possess to get the job done. This is what author Brian Tracy teaches in this book. It serves as a guide to individual advancement and provides a career development plan for everyone in an organization. The book instills the discipline and determination one needs to earn the respect of co-workers and bosses, and eventually move up the corporate ladder. More importantly, this book will help readers find more satisfaction and fulfillment in their jobs.





Getting Your Foot in the Door When You Don't Have a Leg to Stand On

This book offers information for organizing and highlighting one's marketable skills. It walks the readers through the entire career search process. There are self-assessment exercises and guidelines for creating an effective resume, fielding interview questions and negotiating salary packages. Author Rob Sullivan provides concrete rules for a successful job search.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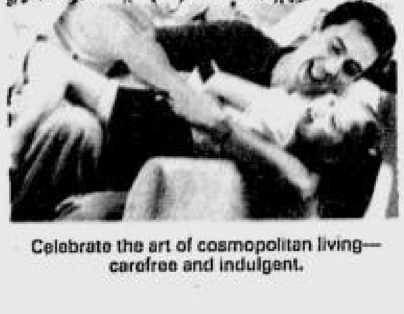

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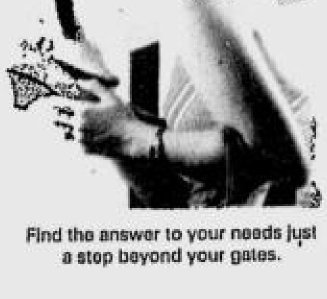

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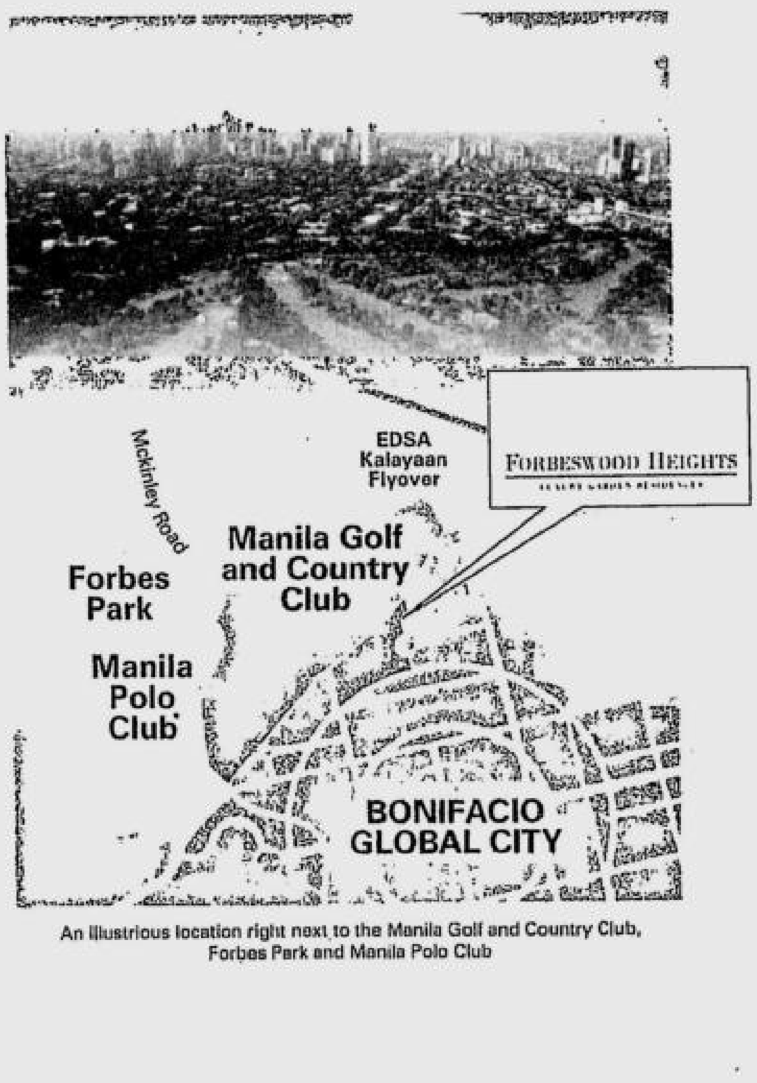
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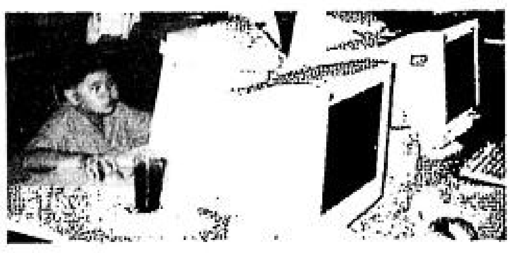
LIFESTYLE

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso** ◎ *Chief of Correspondents* **Pam Pastor**

to be you • to be young • to be • To be you!
2bU!

A mélange of fun

2bU! takes you behind the scene of the A1 craze, surveys the best hangouts off the beaten track and generally gives you the lowdown on the ever-crazy youth scene



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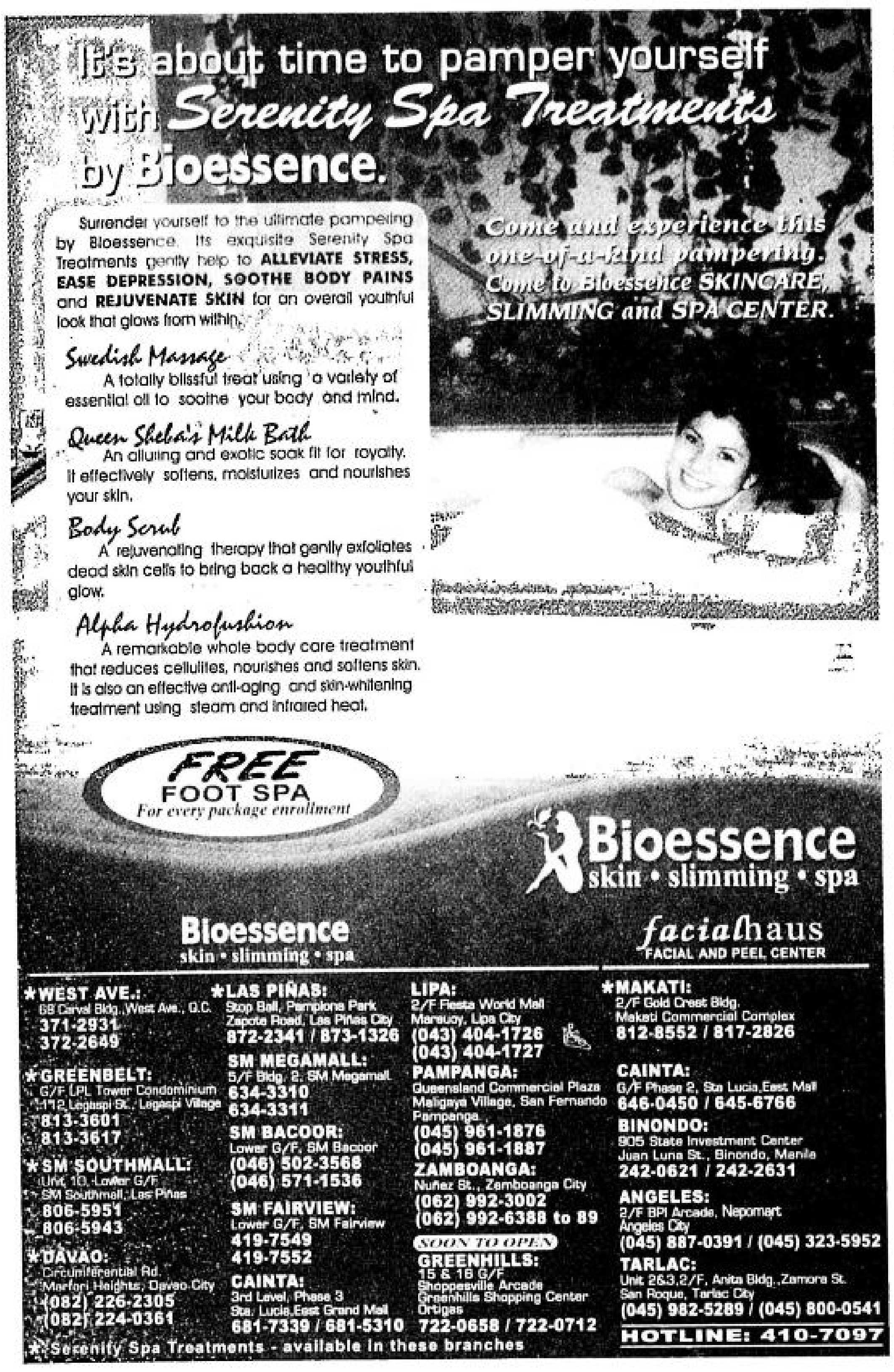
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New band in the Blink of an eye

By Maui V. Reyes
2bU! Correspondent

Box Car Racer
By Box Car Racer
MCA Universal

REVIEW

INTERESTING trivia: when you remove Mark from the Tom-and-Travis-Blink-182 equation, you end up with powerful rhythms, good guitar hooks (yeah, more than three chords there!), catchy melodies, and lyrics that speak about anything that has to do with love—finding it, feeling it, then losing it.

BOX CAR RACER
PARENTAL ADVISORY EXPLICIT CONTENT

To clear up the rumors—no, Blink 182 has not disbanded. Guitarist Tom Delonge (or Thomas Delonge, as he prefers to be credited as on the album) and drummer Travis Barker have embarked on a side project while on Blink 182 hiatus, and ultimately formed the perfect side band, with two high school friends, David Kennedy and Anthony Celestino. Mark Hoppus has opted to spend more time with his family than head back to the recording studio with his band mates on the side band—which, technically would have made Box Car Racer "Blink 182-under-a-new-name."

So does Box Car Racer sound like Blink 182?

As Delonge and Barker point out, Box Car Racer wasn't put together to sell tons of records, but a means for them to branch out to different forms of music. Much like such bands as Fugazi and Refused, the new band offers tons of odd beats and experimental sounds. Think of "Stay Together For the Kids" on constant loop through 13 tracks.

Although, we should never overlook the fact that Box Car does sway differently from Blink. The album has successfully merged Tom's bratty vocals with a wide range of instruments. From piano to strings to the acoustic guitar, Box Car's debut album delivers a wide instrumentation that touches almost every rock genre, from alternative to pop. Songs like "Tiny Voices" and the debut single "I Feel" follow that mellow-verses, hard-stomping-chorus formula, laced with piano; while "Cat like Thief" ventures into funk. Of course, Delonge doesn't fail to come up with a fast-paced punk number with "My First Punk Song." Barker also gives a stellar performance in each song, picking up the guitar for some tracks, while Delonge played bass.

Let's not forget the lyrics that seem to come straight from a 17-year-old's diary. Delonge may be in a side band, but he hasn't lost that punch when it comes to writing about that adolescent roller-coaster ride of emotions and experiences. "Sorrow" speaks about wanting something lost, and admitting his fault ("Because I care way more/Because I really felt that/You cared so much more/I'm sorry/Please forgive me"), while "There Is" laments a relationship ("Do you care if I/Don't know what to say/Will you sleep tonight/Or will you think of me?"). The first single, "I Feel," touches on a bitter, failed relationship ("I feel so mad/Feel so angry/Feel so calloused/So lost confused, again/Feel so cheap/So used, unfaithful/Let's start over").

Not quite like the punk rock we were expecting, although we aren't that disappointed. Some fans point out that Box Car sounds just like a revamped, polished Blink. Well, what do you expect with a producer like Jerry Finn, who twiddled the knobs on Sum 41, Green Day, and Blink's own records?

So it does sound a little bit like Blink, and we still get a dose of yet more songs about love and courtship. And yes, Hoppus does appear on the album (in the cut "Elevator"). But Box Car is not everything that Blink is. In fact, Box Car is what Blink can never be...reaching out to more than the prepubescent fan base of "Total Request Live." We doubt we'll see these guys running around naked anytime soon.

Trust us, you'll get used to Tom on vocals sans Mark.

Blink 182

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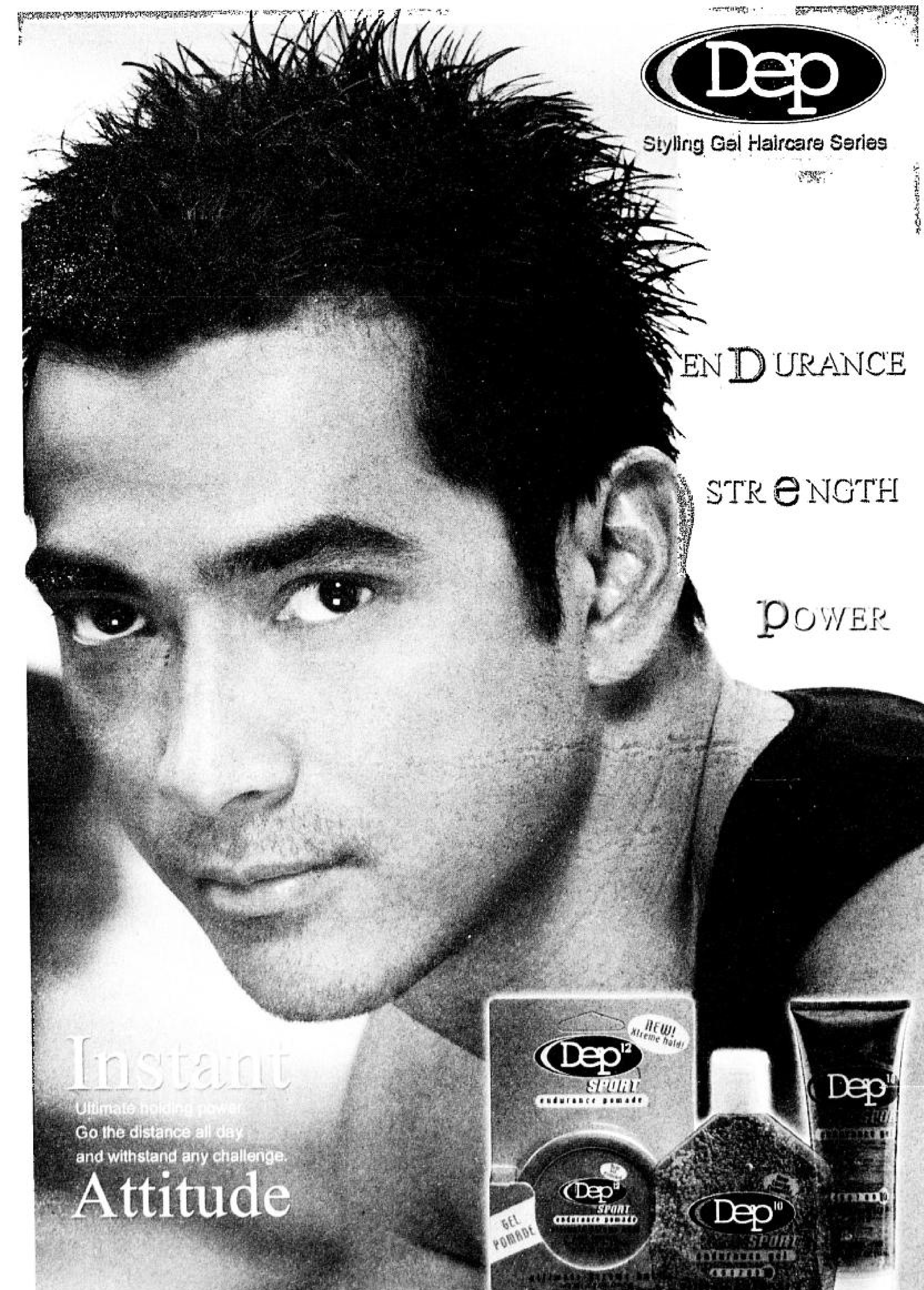
side band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A YOUNG man runs to the stage, grabs the acoustic guitar and strums some chords. He is joined by a five-man band.

The place is dim lit only by some colored lights. A fog machine makes the auditorium hazy. The crowd that stands nearly shoulder-to-shoulder shouts, lifts their hands and jumps wildly. The young people belt out a ska version of some song and twirl in the air.

What's happening here?

When the songs become less wild and another guy begins to sing a solo, what the "party" is all about is revealed. With an angelic voice, the performer sings these lines: "I just wanna be with You, O Jesus/I just wanna praise Your name forever/I just wanna bask in Your glorious presence/I just wanna be, I just wanna be with You, O Jesus."

This is a GenRev concert; the star of the show is Jesus Christ.

Gathering of the young

GenRev—or Generation Revival—is a gathering of young people led by young people. GenRev Nights, held every fourth Friday of the month at the Elim Center for Renewal in New Manila, QC, features passionate worship, explosive music and a life-changing encounter with God—a concert version of a prayer meeting.

It is an attempt to evangelize through "new methods," "new expressions" and enculturation as staged in the Acts and Decrees of the Second Plenary Council.

Rissa Singson, who heads the GenRev group, says "GenRev is our way of showing young people that worshipping God is exciting."

One thing that makes GenRev so effective and attractive to young people is the peer-to-peer ministry. The GenRev team's members are from the youth and singles ministries of Elim, a Catholic charismatic community. GenRev Nights in Manila are usually led by 20-year-old Kiddo Cosio, and in Cebu by 19-year-old Choy Miranda.

Singson said they got a lot of requests from schools and youth groups to give retreats. Last March, GenRev gave a retreat for several peer counselors from the Catholic Educators Association of the Philippines (CEAP). Represented in the retreat were 13 schools, including Ateneo de Manila University, De la Salle University, Miriam College and St. Paul College. GenRev has also gone to Colegio de San Agustin, University of Santo Tomas, Xavier and Don Bosco-Cebu.

Miracles

Modern-day miracles happen in GenRev events like healing, freedom from past hurts, and a sense of peace and fulfillment. The greatest is transformation of the heart. Rissa, Kiddo and Choy, together with Christian artist PY, also brought GenRev to the airwaves through a 30-minute television special they hosted on GMA-7 last March 30, Black Saturday.

The e-mail that GenRev received (genrev@elimrevival.com) after the show indicated that the youth wanted this kind of spiritual fare. A young woman said that after watching the show, she was enlightened and did not feel so alone anymore.

Others wrote to say the show was "cool." Another said it inspired him "to continue my walk with Christ despite my current situation."

Call 722-6749 or log on to elimrevival. com.

A girl's romantic notions about her soulmate

Carlos Garchitorena & September Mabino

DEAR Sep and Caloy,

I remember a project way back in high school when we were asked to project our lives 10 years from then. I wrote something that was obviously make-believe, but it all happened. The man I met in college was exactly the man I described in my story. And I still have dreams about him.

But I fell in love with someone who's nice and sweet. Sometimes I hope that my boyfriend could see me the way my "soulmate" does. Sometimes I would think that there is nothing else to ask for if I happen to end up with my "soulmate." I am really not sure if he feels the same way.

I hope that it would really be my boyfriend that I will marry. But what if my "soulmate" makes a move?

ANONYMOUS

"What if" is actually a title of a comic book series that postulates impossibilities in the malleable comic universe. This is my favorite genre in comics, especially when it comes to the crossovers, like "What if Kal-el (a.k.a. Superman) was sent into the Degobas system of Star Wars instead of Earth? Would Luke Skywalker work extra hard on his acting? Would Yoda kill Superman in a bath of green light as the former meditated?"

The permutations, and the obvious fun and laughter, are endless. The success of this format of storytelling is derived from combining two existing storylines and creating a fusion. The more bizarre, the better. Kind of like *wasabi* mixed with anything, which is always interesting if you like *wasabi*.

You know, though, that the economics of comics is in a depression when they start coming out with titles like "What If Iron Man Used Turtle Wax Instead of Armor All?"or "What If Superheroes Wore Boxer Shorts?"

The type of "what if" that you are going through, though, isn't lorded over by the geniuses who have just successfully brainstormed another "Jetsons Meet the Flintstones." It is the "what if" of someone who had her chance, but for one reason or another, never jumped at it. Let me tell you, there are some people who think that soulmates are exclusive and that romance is the only release of the heretofore anointed. Personally, I'd like to congratulate you insofar as recognizing early on that a soulmate can simply be a friend. Not everyone is as smart to leave well enough alone.

I believe that the real business of souls is the formation of life experiences that we have unconsciously picked for ourselves. This is why life is full of rich and worldly pleasures, pain and poverty, affluence, all at once. And life is always a scramble to fulfill needs, although wants may get in the way. I think this is where your problem lies. We all have unfulfilled needs, and we'd normally give up a lot to find out what they were. Maybe Superman would be more at peace with himself if he got his ass kicked by a green, 900-year-old half-ling every so often.

I myself am still wrestling with the existence of soul and all its implications and manifestations, but regardless of your beliefs, shouldn't we be more trusting of our instinct? Our basic instinct uses impulse as a medium to communicate. Conversely, it uses doubt, apprehension and caution (not to forget fear) to withhold vital information, but for a reason, I'm sure. Once you think you have the green light to do something you've been holding yourself back from, you might want to give it a shot.

"Some things are better left unsaid," says Nick Rivers. On the other hand, "I'm in love with Josh," says Cher.

CALOY

Well, we might probably never know what could happen if your believed-to-be-soulmate made a move, unless he actually does so. But until that happens, can you afford to sit on your hands and wait for something to happen while putting on hold your relationship with your boyfriend?

If I were in the same dilemma, yes, I could do that. I could keep still and wait. But guilt would be eating me away because I am sure that I am in no way comfortable with the current situation. And maybe, just maybe, I'd start feeling resentful of my boyfriend because indirectly, it's his fault that I couldn't explore a romantic relationship with my soulmate. He is keeping me from doing what I want. Who knows? This might happen if you decide to keep things the way they are?

Or, you could just forget about your dreams of a perfect marriage to a guy who sees you as someone who is really special. Be practical and a little skeptical, and laugh off your romantic notions about your soulmate.

Do you really want to be absolutely, positively certain about who are you going to be with for the rest of your life (or at least until your wedding night)? I think that if you're having problems like these, then you're not really ready to be permanently tied down to anyone. Why don't you take your time and let your boyfriend know that you don't need to hurry anything? I mean, what if your what-ifs happened, right? You have the right to doubt and wonder, and you absolutely have the right to postpone making any serious decisions and to change them as well, if you saw the need to.

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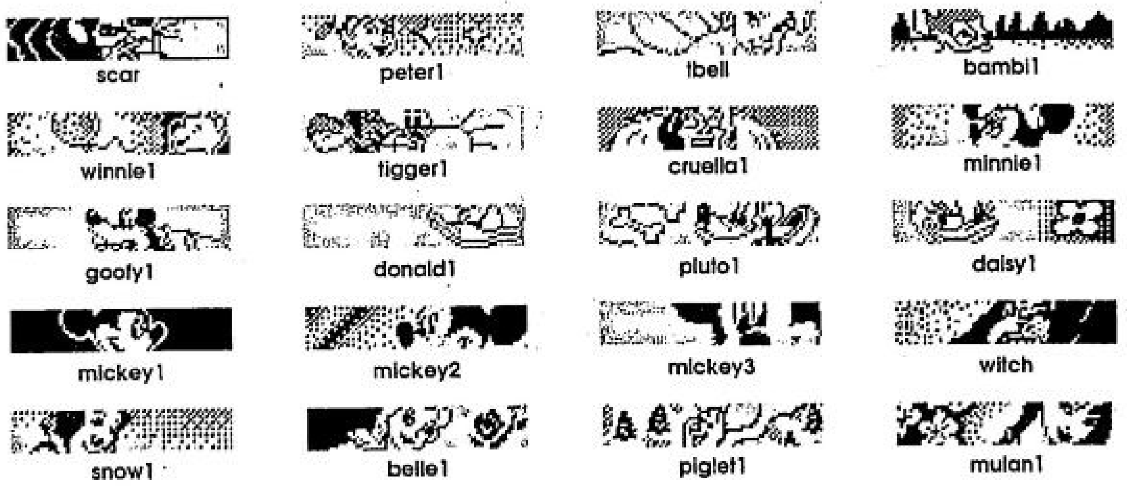
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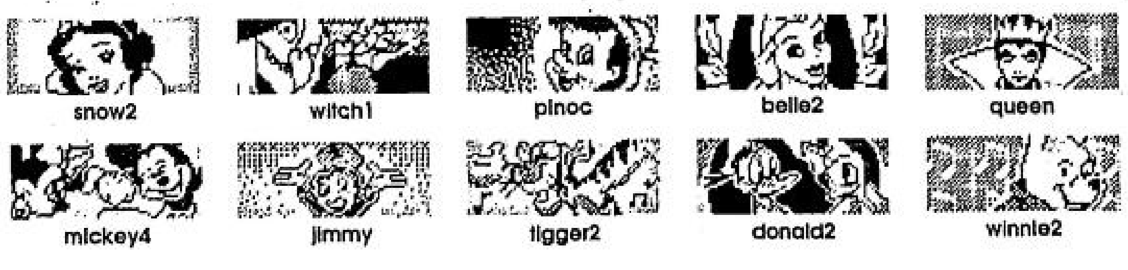
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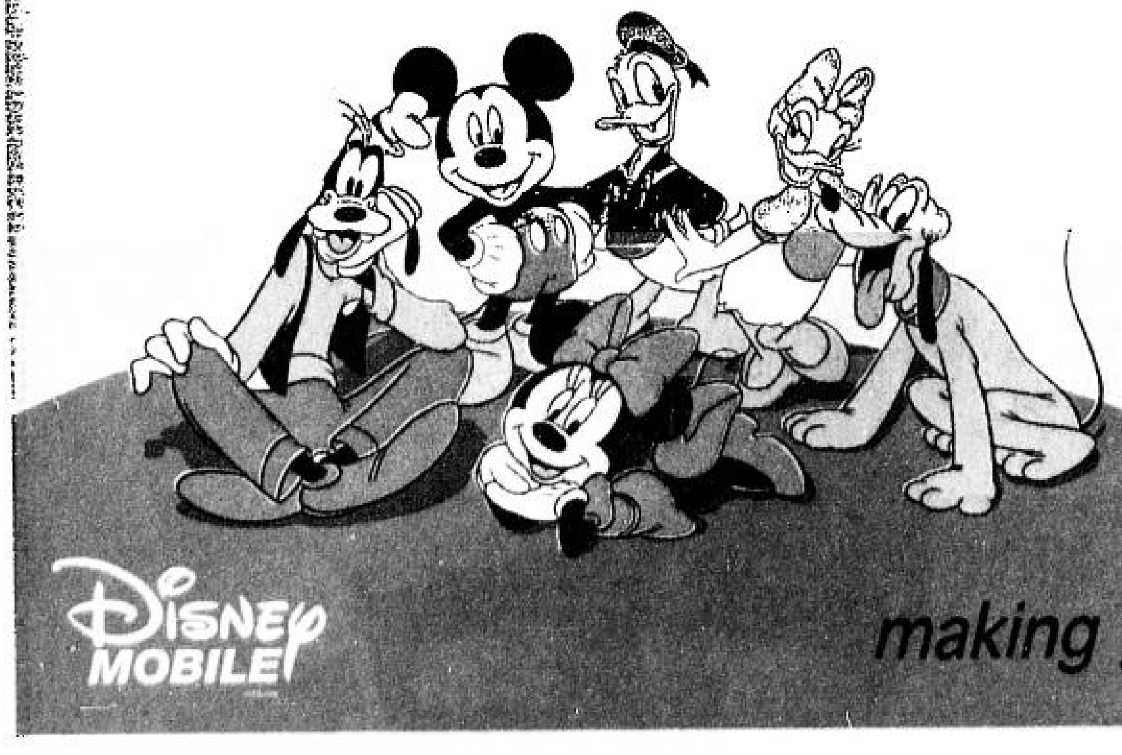

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SAME OLD BRAND, NEW A1. (From left) Mark Read, Paul Marazzi, Ben Adams and Christian Ingebrigsten

Our A1 experience

Two correspondents retell how they face the wrath of fans and cheat death just to be close to the band

Hypnotized by Ben

By Cheryl Tiu
2bU! Correspondent

I'M going to be honest. I never really liked A1. Every time they would come out on TV, I'd switch channels immediately. I agreed to be an usherette at their show only because I wanted to help out.

I arrived at the NBC Tent at our call time of 5 p.m. and already there was a huge mob of fans present. I felt a little guilty with the A1 all-access pass hanging around my neck so I made my way through as inconspicuously as I could.

We interns rearranged the chairs and made sure everything was in place. A1 then came out for the press conference. I quickly took a seat at the center because I wanted to see the guys up close. And then the most bizarre thing happened. I fell into a self-constructed hypnosis—Ben Adams was the most beautiful guy ever!

I was very much aware that he was the same guy whose heartthrob status I had always made fun of. But for some reason, I couldn't take my eyes off him. He had lost a lot of weight. He had a really cherubic face and a really nice tan. He was so, so beautiful in person!

Ben, Ben, Ben

A1 then had a little meet-and-greet, where winners of a contest could pose for pictures with them. I rushed over to Tammy, who was at the other end of the venue, and tugged at her shirt, "Let's get our picture taken with them!" She stared at me as though I had lost my mind.

"Hey! It's you, guys, again! How are you doing?" The guys greeted us with really friendly smiles as we walked over to them. They must have noticed us at the presscon. Guess who stood beside me and put his hand on my waist? Hi-hi-hi.

It was all Ben, Ben, Ben for me until I had to thump myself back to earth 30 minutes later, as it was duty time for us.

We were to escort the fans to their seats and we told the bouncers to let the crowd in by groups of 10 so that we could keep them under control. I rounded up my first group to lead them to their seats. I almost got assaulted.

"*Ba't ang layo?!*" a fan screamed at me. "Five a.m. *pa kami nandito tapos ganito lang! Dapat hindi na kami nag-antay!*"

Her friends joined in verbally attacking me and started kneading the chairs over. I apologized that we couldn't do anything about it, and she yanked her arm away from me and gave me a menacing glare. I panicked and called out Xara to help me pacify them.

Red Sea of fans

There was a whole Red Sea of fans… half of them really angry, and the other half just really happy to be there, regardless of the wait, the heat and having to sit on the floor (due to chair shortage). It was so cute how most of them would call me "Ma'am" when I was probably just about their age.

There were people who needed to go to the bathroom or had to look for friends who got separated from them. I was instructed to have everyone sit down and stay put. But I sympathized with them and relented. I made sure that their companions saved their seats for them. When they'd get back, I would ask them if everything were okay. One girl blushed shyly, as if she couldn't believe that I was actually concerned about her welfare.

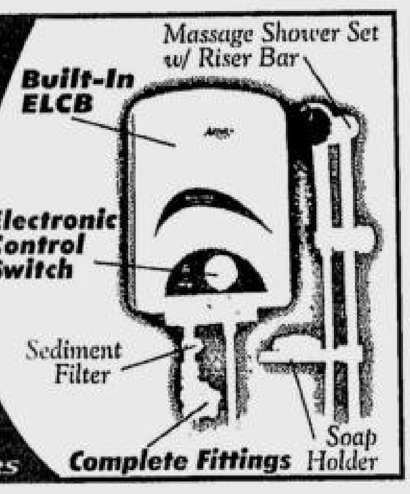
Well, I was. I just couldn't treat them any less than persons; they were tired and hungry, but at the same time, excited. I was incredibly exhausted myself—after running all over the place, trying to bring the crowd under control, being shoved and yelled at—but I understood. I knew what it was like being a fan.

Shrieking like a mad man

When A1—Paul, Ben, Christian and Mark—finally went onstage, the crowd just went crazy! Picture-taking was prohibited and if this rule were violated for the third time, we were instructed to take their cameras away. Tammy and I went around eyeing every aisle like hawks.

But then as A1 plunged into "Make It Good," everyone just went into a frenzy and we just gave up, shaking our heads, with a

OUR/ p.D3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Jag Jeans' hip-hop 'Bounce' is the phattest party series

CLOSE-UP Killer Confident Smile winners: Iñigo Espiritu and Stephanie Afzelius

CANDICE a.k.a. DJ Sugar, Aesha and Kath

TREB Monteras III of Jag Jeans, L Smith (center), and the author with R & B band K24/7

Hip-hop crowd makes Bene bounce

THE AUTHOR, DJ Coki and Paolo (Mark's friend)

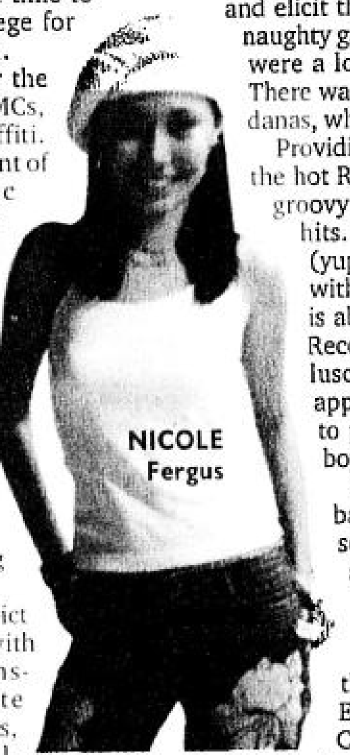
By Niño Mark M. Sablan
2bU! Correspondent

THE rain gods were definitely feeling merciful last Friday for the downpour stopped long enough to give Alabang girls, guys and gays enough time to go to the St. Benedict College for JAG's "Bounce" campus raid.

Bounce brought together the four elements of hip-hop—MCs, DJs, breakdancing and graffiti. Jag added the vibrant element of fashion to hip-hop's basic four. Models strutted their stuff garbed in hot and happening hip-hop wear by Jag.

The ultimate hip-hop experience, Jag Jeans' "Bounce" is the phattest party series reaching out to teens all over the country from the University of the Philippines and University of Santo Tomas to Leyte's young people during the Pintados Festival.

For the launch, St. Benedict College, which was filled with young people, was transformed into the ultimate party place with laser lights, a huge rock-climbing wall, plus numerous computers with Counter Strike flashing on their screens.


NICOLE Fergus

Major motivation came from the night's hosts (or MCs as the hip-hop heads say): Jamaican Razor Ray and Power 108's H-Town, who truly knew how to hand out the goodies and elicit the screams, especially during the naughty games. Aside from the prizes, there were a lot of freebies from the sponsors. There was even a shower of funky Jag bandanas, which drove the teeners up the wall.

Providing the night's soulful sounds was the hot R&B band K24/7 that churned out groovy beats, including current smash hits. Helping the guys was Mike Luis (yup, Mr. *Kinawawawawawaaaaa!*) who, with his new band Brand New Funk, is about to release an album for Viva Records under Jay Durias' label. The luscious L. Smith made a wonderful appearance showing everybody how to party to the delight of pubescent boys.

Some Bene students also got to bask in the limelight as Close-Up searched for the "killer confident smiles of the night." Those chosen received Close-Up smile-generating prizes from the sponsors.

The last part of the party was the much-awaited mass gyration. Encouraged by world-famous DJs Coki, Sir Scratch and MOD, who effortlessly burned the turntables, the partyphiles nodded their heads and shook their booties like there was no tomorrow.

Davaoeños can experience Jag "Bounce" first-hand when it joins the Aug. 29 celebration of the Kadayawan Festival.

The Jag "Bounce" party series is a project of Jag Jeans and Axe Gravity, in cooperation with Close-Up Planet, Seventeen Magazine, Power 108 and RX 93.1.

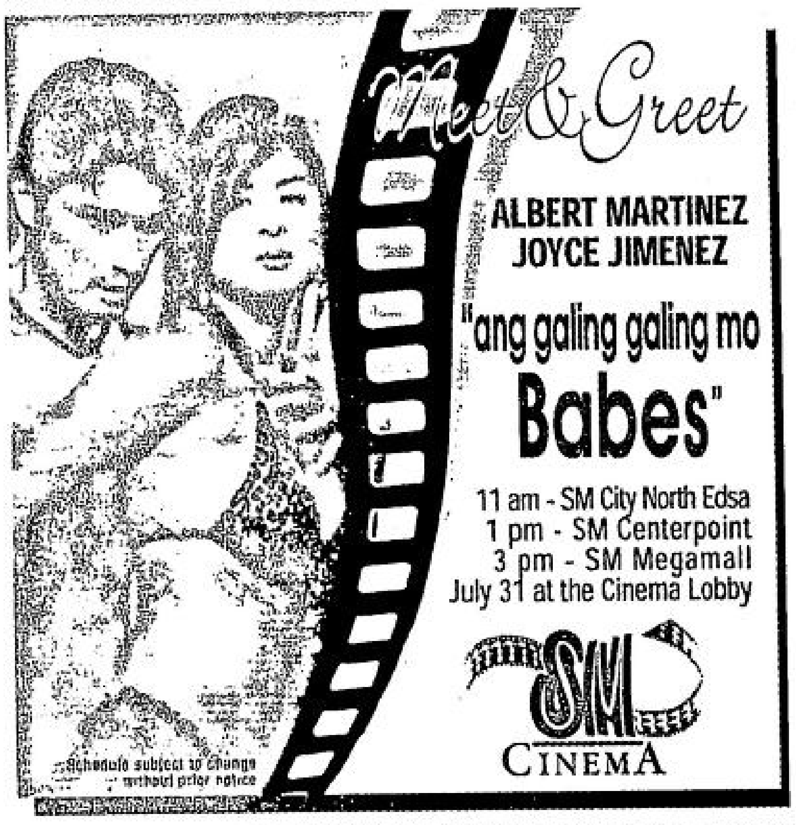
Thanks to Michelle S. Florendo, Aileen E. Abadingo and the other benevolent beings from Jag.

You can e-mail the bouncy author at katotino@yahoo.com

WILFRED Cervantes, Mary Ann Bantayan and Karla Reyes

SAMANTHA Jane and Meg Bravo

THE CROWD puts up their hands in the air.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JOYCE JIMENEZ
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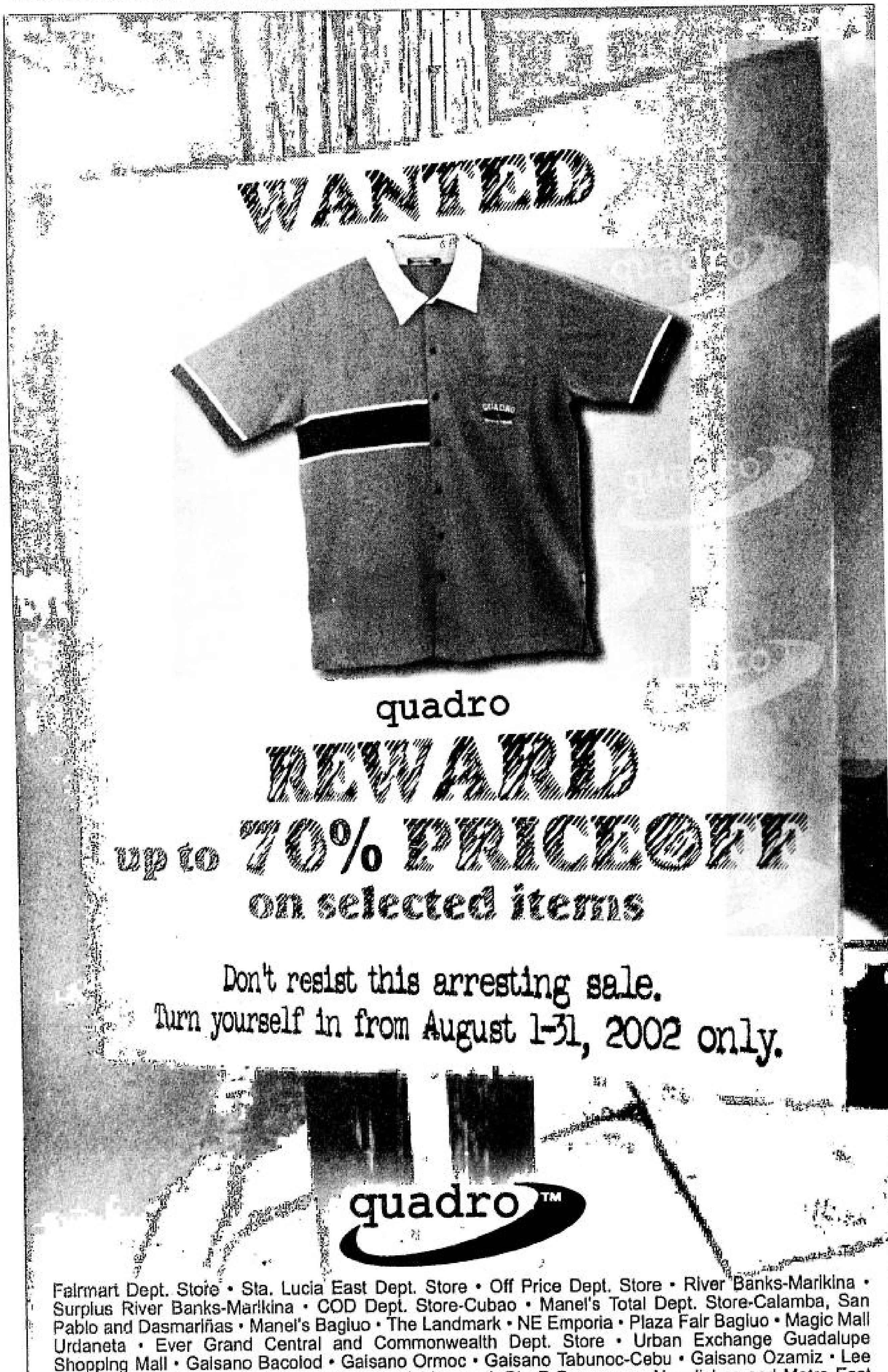
1 pm - SM Centerpoint
3 pm - SM Megamall
July 31 at the Cinema Lobby
SM CINEMA
Schedule subject to change without prior notice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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2960 Series of 2002

The complexity of relationships involving women

By Anne Rose A. Elicaño
2bU! Correspondent

"Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood"
By Rebecca Wells

NO relationship involving women can really escape being complex. Thank heavens. The complexity makes life infinitely richer and more colorful.

"Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood" affirms this and more through the lives of Sidda Walker and her mother, Vivi. Sidda rediscovers her mother through pictures and memorabilia in an old scrapbook and stories told through the eyes of the Ya-Yas, Vivi's irrepressible group of girl friends in Louisiana. Vivi, on the other hand, struggles with demons from the past as she comes to terms with her daughter.

The novel is beautiful both for its vibrant imagery and honesty. Author Rebecca Wells describes in charming detail humid central Louisiana afternoons, the sound of the Acadian fiddle, and magnificent full-moon nights. The novel is honest and does not attempt to gloss over what is ugly and painful. The lighthearted camaraderie of the Ya-Ya girls might lull one into thinking that this is a purely feel-good book but it isn't. But the darker undertones of the story will make you cringe, like Sidda when she begins to understand her mother's past.

What I find so intriguing about this novel is that it's so easy to relate to. The Ya-Ya sisterhood brings to mind that special group, the loyal *barkada*. Like Vivi and her friends, perhaps we've coined a unique, special name for our group. The relationship between Vivi and Sidda can also very well define certain truths about most mother-and-daughter relationships. While struggling not to be like our mothers, there are true moments of surprise (nasty shock?) when we find we are really more similar than we think. The book shows how the lives of mothers and daughters will always interweave and how we all hope that the occasional disagreement will ultimately end in reconciliation.

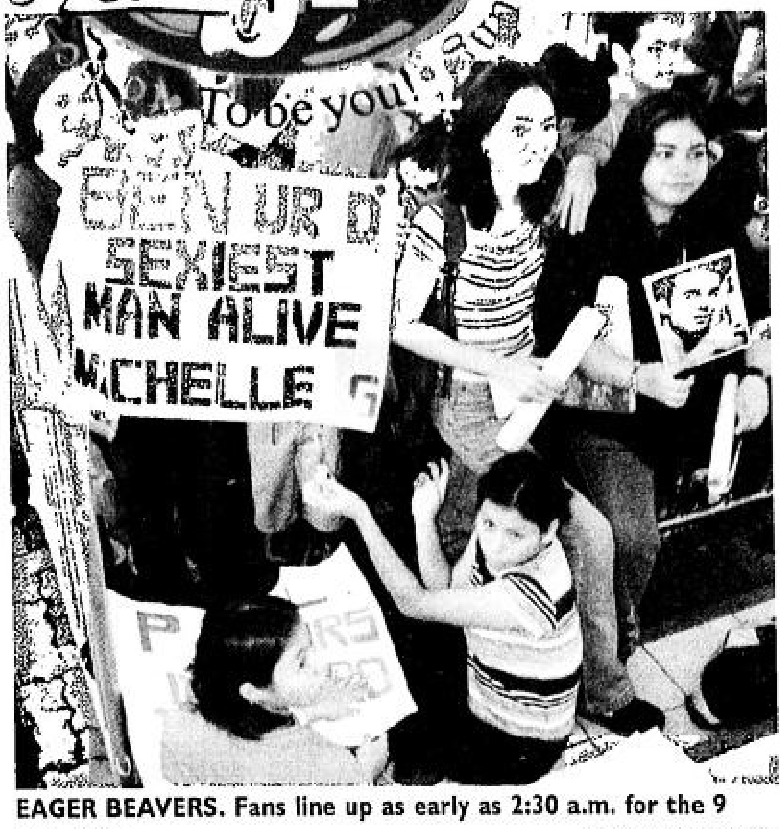
In "The Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood," the relationship between Vivi and Sidda can also define most mother-and-daughter relationships

"Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood" will make you think of that which transforms friends into sisters, and mother-and daughter relationships which destroys as well as nurtures. Read it and think about the divine secrets that we all seek to unlock as we come into terms with the most important people in our lives.

E-mail the author at anario@lycos.com

Our A1 experience

NEW fans Tammy (left) and Cher pose with the band.



BEN UR D SEXIEST MAN ALIVE
MICHELLE G

EAGER BEAVERS. Fans line up as early as 2:30 a.m. for the 9 p.m. show.

PHOTOS: TAMMY DAVID

From page D1

little smile; at least the fans now get to have their cake with icing on top.

We knew that they were going to play "Caught in the Middle" for their encore and since it was Tammy's and my in-the-closet favorite A1 song, we made our way toward the side of the stage. When the opening guitar strains sounded, I started shrieking like a mad man. Throughout the song, Tammy and I had our fanatic moment of the night—singing, screaming and jumping around, shocking our boss Charley, who looked like she was about to have a seizure from laughing so hard.

When I got home, I put on my Sony Music CD sampler, which had "Caught in the Middle" in it and put it on "repeat" in my CD player until I fell asleep.

More important, though, I saw and felt the tremendous amount of effort diehard fans would exert just to see their favorite bands. Like Tammy said, it was Total Request Live amplified to the 10th power, and as cheesy as it may sound, sharing their emotions was what was most real to me.

I hope A1 realizes how lucky they are.

E-mail the author at chloe_dominique @yahoo.com

Marking Mark

By Tammy David
2bU! Correspondent

I AM now the fan of a new group of young people. They're admirable to me in the sense that they changed my views on a lot of things. Nope, they're not on the cover of any magazine nor have a hit single in the charts. The people I salute are the fans of A1. Why? It's because I've never seen anything as passionate and wild as these people.

While I just wish and pray every night that Dave Matthews will perform here, a fan made a Geocities site "Bring back A1" that reportedly has tons of posts (mostly shout-outs for A1 to return) and traffic all the time. As if that wasn't enough, a sticker campaign was launched, which soon reached Sony Music Philippines. With the help of Sony, PLDT, MTV and, of course, the fans, A1 came back for the third time.

The early birds

July 16, the day of the concert, I arrived at the NBC Tent at 2:30 p.m. From afar, I could see a group of people outside the entrance. I thought they were crew members setting up the place, but to my surprise, they were fans. As early as 2:30 p.m., there were people already waiting outside just to get a glimpse or a good seat up close. "*May isang grupo nga* 5:30 a.m.," one of the bouncers told me. Honestly I couldn't imagine myself lining up for any of my favorite artists for 18 hours! I was also surprised there were bouncers instead of good ol' security guards since most of the fans were kids instead of the usual drugged-out war freaks.

I woke up early that day so I decided to take a nap a bit, but it was impossible with A1 soundchecking on the stage and the fans singing along to all of the songs and screaming "I love you."

It was great seeing A1 sound-check. I cracked up once when Mark sang like some opera singer, clowning around while everybody was busy preparing.

It was getting dark and from the voices we heard from outside we knew that the crowd was angry, tired and very eager to at least get inside the Tent. The 10-minute press conference started. It was very intimate since everybody, including the band, huddled close as there were no mikes. The press people asked the usual questions about A1's new album and one of the hottest issues nowadays, piracy. One of the members of the press stormed out of the Tent after waiting for so long and not getting enough time.

My 'Mark moment'

During the photo-op, Mark encouraged us to just shout out our questions while posing. I yelled, "Are you guys going to change anything for America like lose weight and cut booze like Westlife?" Mark answered something like they don't have to since it's their music America is after.

Later, they had a little meet-and-greet with lucky fans. Cher and I, being the ultimate closet popsters, also lined up for a picture. Having my little crush on Mark, I immediately went to his side instead of staying in the middle. He put his arm around me and I just flashed the most disgusting smile in the world.

I asked him if he remembered me from my interview during the last visit and, of course, he replied, "Oh yeah, how have you been?" I didn't have time to blush or give another dorky smile since it was time to let the people in. Let the war begin.

Finally at 8 p.m., the fans were let inside. We started by tens and asked them to fill up the rows. Some were disappointed since the front-row seats were either reserved for or occupied by VIPs. The only thing that paid off camping out early was they were able to get a seat since only a fraction of those who waited outside were allowed in. The others had to content themselves with either the floor or the big screen outside the tent.

Angry bears to ecstatic hippies

It would have taken an army to have everybody settle down. The ushers Tomz, Xara, Ramon, Cher and I had to make sure every seat was taken and that nobody was allowed to stand on their chairs and take pictures of the show. Some of the fans asked me questions from the set list to the schedule of the jeeps and buses around Fort Bonifacio. One even asked, "*Ate, mabait ba sila?*" I had to bring food to a girl up front from her mother who was at the back. One woman in tears scared the hell out of me when she suddenly snapped when I tried to console her. I also led a couple of fans to the toilets outside.

An angry fan scratched Xara; the rest of us were also harassed. But when the show started, the fans turned from angry bears to ecstatic hippies. We gave up on yelling at the crowd to stop taking pictures and going up front. We all went outside in the VIP area and had our dinner at around 10:30 p.m. We were tired, but we all agreed it was an experience.

Most of us left right away after A1 performed their last song while most of the fans patiently stayed on and clamored for A1 to go back on stage. I always wished that I was born in the '50s to experience Beatlemania. But if my A1 experience was close to that, I don't need a time machine anymore.

MTV Live with A1 is on Aug. 6, 9 p.m.; repeats on Aug. 9, 6 p.m., and Aug. 15, 12 nn

E-mail the author at tam_margera@ hotmail.com

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'Falsettos' shows adolescent confusion and pain

By Dulce V. Aristorenas
Contributor

REMEMBER some of the lines in Elton John's "Circle of Life"?

> *"It's the Circle of Life*
> *And it moves us all,*
> *Through despair and hope*
> *Through faith and love*
> *Till we find our place*
> *On the path unwinding*
> *In the Circle—the Circle of Life."*

This is what "Falsettos"—New Voice Company's Tony Award-winning musical at the Music Museum—is all about.

I approached this musical with a little trepidation—frankly, I had never heard of "Falsettos"—but I have heard of Monique Wilson's tenacity to bring in new theater materials that break stereotypes and smash your judgments. So, with my old high school classmate, Clarissa, I went to the Music Museum to watch "Falsettos."

From the very first melodies to the last, "Falsettos" takes you through the most entertaining songs, dances, fleeting halves of stories that stick together like a puzzle with an amazing and energetic cast: I fell in love with both Jake Macapagal (eight years in Germany with "Miss Saigon") and Joel Trinidad (a former colleague in advertising); Rito Asilo (a licensed medical doctor with a voice and acting prowess to match); Lynn Sherman, who really cracks you up, especially if you're a woman fooled by some ex-lover, in the song "I'm Going To Have A Breakdown"; Jenny Jamora (who bloomed into a woman in "The Vagina Monologues" shows); and Lily Chu. But I loved most 12-year-old Joshua Ramirez, who held his own against the seasoned actors—without even trying.

Circle of life

"Falsettos" is all about the circle of life. It's about human beings and the choices they make in love and war. As we watched the play, we saw our choices played on stage: the pain of our children is magnified by Joshua. All the adults want him to take therapy when it's them who need therapy. And that causes the boy's confusion. As the play progresses, you'll find out it's the boy who's sane but he has to live in this pretty small parameter called a "broken family." Although he knows he is loved, he has to leave his mother, who married his therapist, and stay with his father, who has a lover. In the meantime, there is the pain that the adults have to go through, too.

Force of love

But, "Falsettos" is not melodramatic; it's really fun humor. Songs and dances, and wonderful insights tell you that in the circle of life, we move on and on; we take the road less traveled not knowing whether that road has despair or hope. But like all human beings, we move on with faith, hope and love. We go on, and continue to make decisions—usually, unusually—based on love.

And as "Falsettos" goes on, the circle of life tells us that we will finally find our place because the path unwinding brings us to that one sole force, the force of love.

Is it love that breaks the "family"? Is it love that finally raises Whizzer (Joel Trinidad) into more than just a lover, but a precursor of that terrible wave of hell that many people would have to face in the future decades? Is it love that finally pulls everyone together at the end?

We all go through our own "circles"—and "Falsettos" shows us the particular circles these merry band of people has gone through.

"Falsettos" runs at the Music Museum until Aug. 3 with Friday and Saturday performances at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are available at all Ticketworld outlets, National Book Stores, Robinsons Department Stores (Galleria and Malate), Tower Records (Makati and Alabang) and Music Museum. Tickets priced at P1,000, P800 and P500. Call Ticketworld at 891-5610 or the New Voice Company at 896-6695, 896-5497 or 899-0630.

LOVE and death

JOSHUA Ramirez as Jason

i met Asia's
most wanted
in Singapore!

Welcome to 'Falsetto'-land!

By Tim Yap

MEET Marvin. He's married to Trina, devoted to his son Jason, and in love with a man named Whizzer. This sums up the complex plot of the Tony Award-winning Broadway smash hit "Falsettos," now on its last weekend run at the Music Museum.

The first act has five actors interacting with each other with songs so well-written (by James Lapine, of "Into The Woods" fame) and characters so juicily fleshed out by director Andrew Vergara, that you'll get to identify with each one's pain, love, joy, frustration, needs and desires.

Trina is dealing with the fact that her husband is in love with someone else, a man at that. Marvin is torn between his "ideal" of a happy family and his love affair with Whizzer. He leaves his wife and son to join his lover. His wife (Trina) falls in love and eventually marries Mendel, her former husband's shrink. In the midst of all of this is 11-year-old Jason, looking at this dysfunctional world in the eyes of an innocent child. Come second act, enter lesbian lovers Charlotte and Cordelia, their next door neighbor who complete this musical tragicomedy.

It may sound complicated, but somehow, as the musical progresses, each character manages to push a particular button in the audience's emotional wells. They are all lost, but trying to find themselves in a web of relationship and circumstantial differences, just like all of us. "It's about growing up, getting older, living on a lover's shoulder—learning love is not a crime."

Jake Macapagal (Marvin) and Lynn Sherman (Trina) shine in all of their scenes that take us through a roller-coaster of emotions—both make us laugh so hard in one minute, then shed tears the next. Newcomer Joshua Ramirez (Jason) is effortless as a pre-pubescent kid dealing with adult angst. His syncopated, sometimes off-key singing synchs so well with his character, a kid who is always quiet in class, alone in his own world.

Joel Trinidad (Whizzer) endears himself to the audience with his charming eager-beaver ways and moody temperament. Rito Asilo (Mendel) is sympathetic as the shrink who falls in love with his client, overflowing with unconditional love. Jenny Jamora and Lily Chu exude brightness and confidence onstage—I foresee more roles for these talented young thespians. All throughout the show, their numbers never fail to drive the audience into either whirlwind applause or unabashed cries.

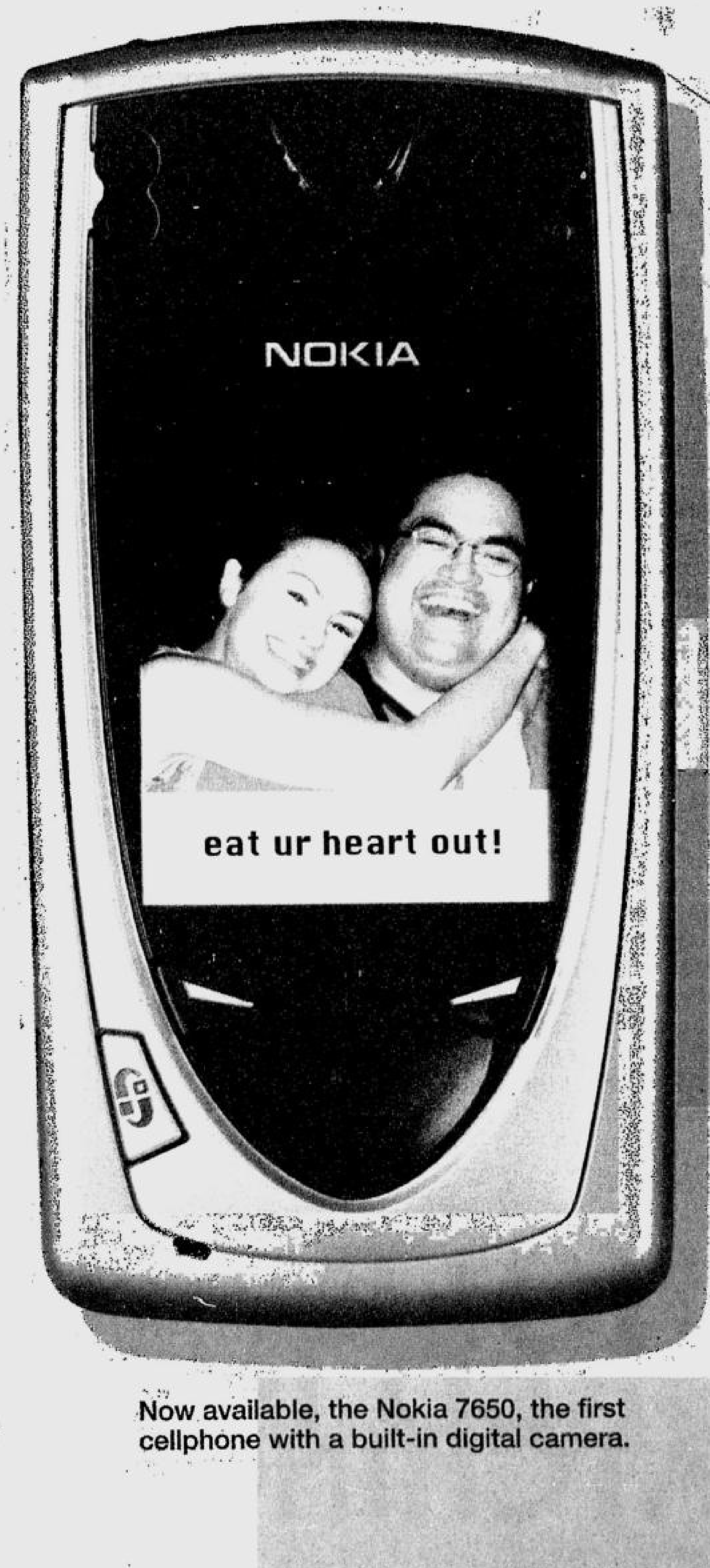
Monique Wilson's New Voice Company knows how to choose material that not just tugs at the heart, but manages to broaden our view of relationships, sexuality, life and love. It is theater that serves as an instrument for change. With partner Rossana Abueva, Monique manages to provide provocative and life affirming works that Manila so needs. "It (the stage) can transform society," as Monique puts it.

Time Magazine describes this musical as "the richest emotional experience offered by any musical on Broadway." And I agree. I left the Music Museum with puffy eyes and an enriched soul. To quote Marvin, "Who would I be if I had not loved you? How would I know what love is?"

MARCH OF THE FALSETTOS. Catch the show on its last weekend.

TIME WILL MEND OUR PAIN. Jake Macapagal and Joshua Ramirez

for real ⓖ



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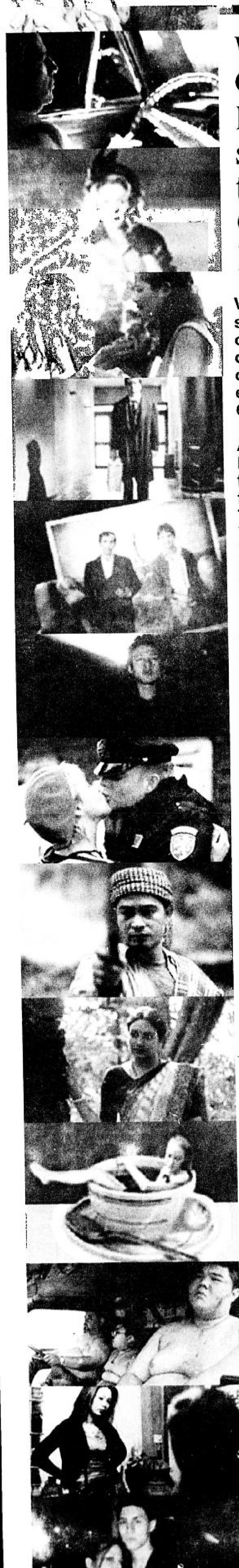
CINEMANILA



Welcome to Makati Cinemanila International Film Festival 2002, set to run from August 1 through 15 at the Greenbelt Cinemas, Makati City.

We are the Premier of Premieres. Now on its fourth straight year, Cinemanila will be the first to showcase over a 100 Critically Acclaimed Films from various countries across the globe for 15 days. Films are categorized into several sections such as World Cinema, Asian Cinema, Philippine Cinema and Digital Cinema.

Awards at stake in the festival are the Grand Prize Lino Brocka Award, to be conferred by an International jury of eminent film personalities, the Network for the Promotion of Asian Cinema (NetPAC) Award, The Grand Jury Prize, The Ishmael Bernal Award for Young/Alternative Cinema, Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Documentary, Best Short Film, Best Scenario, Kodak Cinematography Award and The Special Jury Prize.

Presenting only the best for the Filipino audience, this year's festival will be formally opened by the critically acclaimed film "Heaven" (Germany) directed by Tom Tykwer of "Run Lola Run" fame. The dramatic film tells both the upbeat and offbeat story of a woman who – upon taking the law into her own hands after police ignore her pleas to hook the man responsible for her husbands death – finds herself not only under arrest for murder but also falling in love with an officer. It vied for the Golden Bear at Berlin last February and copped the coveted Film Prize in Silver at the 2002 German Film Awards.

A highlight of the opening festivities is the gathering of the actors and actresses who made films with Lino Brocka and another National Artist, Ishmael Bernal. Both Brocka and Bernal with their respsective careers spanning three decades of meaningful and courageous filmmaking continue to be the festival's inspiration.

There will also be workshops and seminars. The Direct Action Cinema Workshop will headed by the Critically Acclaimed Director Rob Nilsson (Cannes Camera d'Or Winner, and the Grand Prize Winner at Sundance; *Heat and Sunlight, Northern Lights*). There is also the Cinematography Workshop by Pierre William-Glenn, who has worked with famous French Directors such as Costa Gavras, Claude Le Louche, and Bertrand Tavernier. There will also be a talk hosted by the famed director Olivier Assayas, who directed *Demon Lover* and *Sentimental Destinies*.

Most definitely, Makati Cinemanila 2002 is an event not to be missed.

The WHOLE WORLD is WATCHING

Messages

MALACAÑAN PALACE
Manila

My warmest felicitations to the organizers, patrons, participants and guests of the **Fourth Annual Cinemanila International Film Festival.**

I am heartened to know that this celebration of film brings to the country artists, critics, celebrities and film industry players from all over the world. Moreover, it provides the Filipino audience a good exposure to some of the best films in the world today. I am confident that the prestige of the event will resound well to give the needed boost to the tourism, investment and economic potentials in the Philippines.

My administration fully supports the progress of international and local films, and the development of Filipino artistic talent into the world-class caliber. We are committed to promote high standards in film, the development of competetive and quality Filipino movies, and the curbing of film piracy. I wish the success of the Cinemanila 2002 International Film Festival. I am confident it will promote better film appreciation among Filipino audience and likewise inspire our people to create world- class Filipino films.

Congratulations and *Mabuhay!*

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
MANILA, August 2002

CITY OF MAKATI
Philippines

The City of Makati is once again proud to be the principal sponsor of Makati Cinemanila 2002.

When we hosted Cinemanila last year, the city government of Makati was determined to make a mark in culture and the arts by presenting Makati as a center for quality cinema—not only Philippine cinema, but global cinema.

Today, with the unwavering support of our friends from Makati's business community, Makati is already on its way to becoming not only a venue for critically-acclaimed works by some of the world's finest filmmakers, but as a center for arts and culture as well.

Makati Cinemanila already established itself as one of Asia's premier venues for quality films. And we are proud to be part of such a prestigious event because it gives us an opportunity to do our share in uplifting the Philippine film industry.

I am confident that the mutual relationship existing between the City of Makati and Cinemanila will continue to flourish in the coming years as we present brilliant works of art to the Philippines and to the rest of the world.

JEJOMAR C. BINAY
Mayor

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives

By any reckoning, the Cinemanila 2001 International Film Festival was a resounding success.

No doubt a lot of factors contributed to that success—not least of which, I believe, was the inspired choice of Makati City as the host city.

This year, Makati City would be institutionally linked to Cinemanila as the festival's permanent site. Such linkage would sow and nurture the seeds of a massive cultural renaissance and these would bloom and bear fruit in lasting social, economic and artistic synergies with positive effects, both local and global.

I hope and pray that— even more than Cinemanila 2001—Cinemanila 2002 will go a long way towards the fulfillment of that dream.

CONG. BUTZ AQUINO
2nd District, Makati City

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM

My warmest greetings to the Cinemanila International Film Festival!

This year's film festival will surely provide quality entertainment to our film audience by screening some of the better Filipino films with the best of the world. In this age of globalization, this annual event is important for Filipinos as it will expose them to a wider range of film products from many countries. It will also increase their understanding and appreciation of other peoples of the world through the power of film.

We are happy to welcome the festivals' guests of foreign directors, producers, technical men, performers and critics especially during this time when we are preparing for the "Visit Philippines 2003." We hope that our festival guests will communicate to the world the natural warmth, talent and skills of the Filipinos as well as the beauty of the Philippines.

Under the administration of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, tourism has been identified as a major engine for socioeconomic development. The government and the local travel trade are putting more resources to entice more visitors to the Philippines.

In this vein, the Department of Tourism is preparing for the "Visit Philippines 2003" as fully endorsed by the World Tourism Organization. Next year, the whole world's attention will be focused on the Philippines as a unique and multifaceted business and travel destination.

We have initiated the "WOW Philippines!" and "The Philippines: More Than the Usual" campaigns, Tourism Volunteer-12 and the New "Balikbayan" programs, "Hubs and Spokes" Destination System, Visitors Information System, Tourism Enterprise Zones and the national advocacy for a "Culture of Tourism," which will lead up to the "Visit Philippines 2003."

Congratulations to all the delegates, officials, working committees and people involved in this important event!

May the Cinemanila International Film Festival contribute to a new direction and much-needed boost for Filipino films as it continues to enjoy enthusiastic patronage by local and foreign audience.

RICHARD J. GORDON
Secretary, Department of Tourism

Cinemanila International Film Festival

Last year's Cinemanila was an unqualified success with feature films, digital cinema and documentaries, the best that World Cinema had to offer.

Among the films shown were Im Kwon Taek's *Chunhyang*, the first-ever Korean film to compete in Cannes, and Danis Tanovic's *No Man's Land* which went on a few months later to win an award for Best Foreign Language Film at the 2002 Golden Globe and 2002 Academy Awards. We are proud to have given John Williams' *Firefly Dreams* our highest honor, the Lino Brocka Award. We are particularly proud to have hosted the world premiere of our own Lav Diaz's *Batang West Side* considered by both the 2002 Gawad Urian and the 15th Singapore International Film Festival as the Best Picture of 2001.

This year's festival will feature films even more distinguished, and even more exciting—more features, more digital films, more documentaries—again the best that World Cinema has to offer this year.

Last year's guest of honor, no less than her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, gave her full support to the festival's goals and objectives. "Bagong Buhay, Bagong Cinema" she declared in her speech, citing the films of Lino Brocka and Ishmael Bernal, noting how in the hands of these two masters cinema acted as "a mirror held up in front of the everyday Filipino... showing him at his most grotesque and at his most glorious—a portrait of the Filipino as a work of art."

As a concrete reply to President Macapagal-Arroyo's call for a new and improved cinema, the festival has prepared (with the cooperation of the Asia-Europe Foundation) a Cinemanila-ASEF Film Development Plan. The plan, based on the successful Pusan Promotion Plan of the Pusan International Film Festival, involves a select group of Filipino filmmakers—mainstream and independent—in a roundtable conference. These filmmakers will meet with 25 to 30 producers and directors from Asia and Europe, to exchange ideas and plans for co-production and film financing.

We, in the festival, believe that bringing together films from other countries and the Philippines has helped educate the Filipino audience in World Cinema, and the international audience in Philippine cinema. We believe that the festival, by providing new and independent Filipino filmmakers a venue for competition and exposure, is the best means by which we can develop new and independent talents.

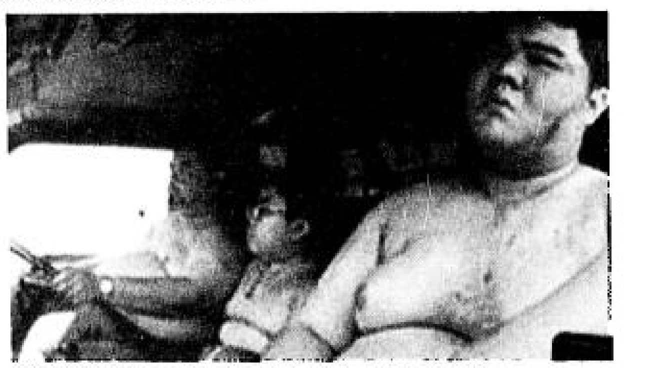
We believe that the festival's Cinemanila-ASEF Film Development Plan is the best and most effective way of realizing the dream master filmmakers Lino Brocka and Ishmael Bernal once dreamt, that of making the Philippines the center of filmmaking in the Southeast Asian region.

Thank you very much. Mabuhay ang Bagong Cinema!

AMABLE "TIKOY" AGUILUZ, VI
Festival Director, Cinemanila

Heaven, Germany, directed by Tom Tykwer

CINEMANILA 2002 BARES INTERNATIONAL LINEUP OF FILMS



HOLLYWOOD Hong Kong, Hong Kong, directed by Fruit Chan

The forthcoming Makati's Cinemanila International Film Festival will showcase over a hundred acclaimed films across the globe at Greenbelt 1 Cinemas in Ayala Center from August 1 to 15.

"Heaven"-from Germany and directed by Tom Tykwer of "Run Lola Run" fame-is the opening film. With screenplay co-written by Krzysztof Kieslowski and Krzysztof Piesiewicz, the dramatic film is about a woman who-upon taking the law into her own hands after police ignore her pleas to arrest the man responsible for her husband's death-finds herself not only under arrest for murder but also falling in love with an officer. It vied for the Golden Berlin Bear last February and copped the coveted Film Prize in Silver at the 2002 German Film Awards.

Heavyweight titles from Europe, Asia and America are also lined up. Leading the pack are "Bread and Tulips" and "The Travelling Salesman" from Italy; "Flickering Lights" and "Minor Mishaps" from Denmark; "Dog Days" from Austria and "Chico" from Hungary. Belgium is represented by "The Carriers Are Waiting" and "I Know I'll See Your Face Again" while Russia debuts at this year's festival with "A Place on Earth." Other countries debuting in the festival this year are Estonia with "Good Hands" and Luxembourg's "Le Club des Chomeurs."

Ken Loach's "The Navigators" that competed for Golden Lion and was conferred the Children and Cinema Prize as well as the Rota Soundtrack Prize at the last Venice International Film Festival serves as United Kingdom's prestigious entry.

Cannes' Camera d'Or plum winner Zacharias Kunuk's "Atanarjuat, the Fast Runner" from Canada and a slew of United States releases (Manito, Piñero, American Rhapsody, Northern Lights, Green Dragon, Scheme C6, The Following, The Man Who Wasn't There, etc.) hallmark North American participation.

Asian highlights include the cinema of three Chinas with the People's Republic's "Quitting", "Seafood" and "Orphan of Anyang"; Hong Kong's "Peony Pavilion", "Hollywood Hong Kong" and "GeGe" and Taiwan's "A City of Sadness" and "Goodbye South, Goodbye" (both from Hou Hsia-hsien hailed as Director of the Decade in a number of international festivals), "The Personals, "What Time Is It There", "Darkness and Light" and "The Cabbie." Taiwan is joined by Singapore as Country in Focus with the latter presenting "12 Storeys", "Talking Cock", "Day After Tomorrow", "Forever Fever", "Mee Pok Man", "Eating Air", "Chicken Rice War" and the sensational current hit "I Not Stupid" by Jack Neo.

From the Indian subcontinent is "Calmness" along with the festival centerpiece, the Oscar-nominated "Lagaan." Sri Lanka returns this year with a strong bet in "Pickpocket." Other Asian countries with their respective entries are Indonesia with Nan Triveni Achnas' "Whispering Sands" and Riri Riza's "Eliana, Eliana"; Korea with Kim Ki-duk's "Address Unknown" and Jang Sun-woo's "Lies"; Iran with "Bashu, the Little Stranger" and a couple of Mohsen Makmalbaf classics-"The Cyclist" and "Once Upon a Time, Cinema"; Thailand with Pen-ek Ratanaruang's "6ixtynin9"; Japan with a twinbill of Takeshi Kitano titles-"Hana-bi" and "Kikujiro"-plus "Harmful Insect", "Unloved", "Waterboys", the "Pink Eiga" series and the horror trilogy of "The Ring" which started a cult following.

Among the countries that keep coming back for Cinemanila, Israel and New Zealand stand out. Israel fields Cannes winner Amos Kollek's "Fast Food, Fast Women" while New Zealand exhibits Harry Sinclair's "Topless Women Talk About Their Lives"-the festival circuit hit from Thessonoliki in Greece to Locarno in Switzerland to Gijon in Spain to Fantasporto in Portugal. It went on to sweep the 1998 New Zealand Film Awards with eight trophies including best picture. It stars internationally acclaimed actress Danielle Cormack who was among the celebrated guests at last year's Cinemanila.

IN THE *Mood For Love*, Hong Kong, directed by Wong Kar-Wai

More major features for this year's Cinemanila include a tribute to John Cassavetes-the pioneer of American cinema verité; respective selections of films by France's Francoise Ozon and the Philippines' own Mike de Leon as Directors in Focus; Filmmaker's Talk with Olivier Assayas; Digital Cinema with Direct Action cinema workshop with Rob Nilsson-himself a Cannes Camera d'Or and Sundance Grand Prize winner; an array of short and documentary specials; Best of Cinemanila that brings back gems of the festival's past editions and a whole section devoted to Latin American new cinema topbilled by Alfonso Cuaron's "Y Tu Mama Tambien" along with other entries from Argentina, Chile, Cuba, Mexico, Peru, Venezuela.

Closing Film for this year's Cinemanila is Wong Kar-Wai's "In The Mood for Love" – the latest prize-winning opus from the noted Hong Kong new wave filmmakers previously hailed for "Happy Together", "Chungking Express" and "Days of Being Wild." "In the Mood for Love" stars Tony Leung and Maggie Cheung in a tale of what could be an unconsummated affair between a pair of betrayed spouses.

Makati's Cinemanila 2002 is presented by the City of Makati. This year marks the fourth annual staging of the country's premier global film event. It is also sponsored by Ayala Cinemas, its official theater venue; Independent Cinema Association of the Philippines; Hotel Intercontinental Manila, its Official hotel; Philippine Daily Inquirer, its Official broadsheet; DHL, its official courier; Yehey! as its official Online Media Partner; RPN 9, its official TV station.

GUESTS AT THE FESTIVAL

Amb. Delfin Colome
Executive Director, Asia-Europe Foundation
Marie Le Sourd
Project Executive, Cultural Exchange, ASEF
Henri Roanne-Rosenblatt
Coordinator, Film Industry Training, MEDIA + C.E.
Robert Malengreau
Film Critic and General Director
Festival International Du Film Independent,
Brussels
Atahualpa Lichy
Chairman
Film Critic, Venezuela & France
Rob Nilsson
Cannes Camera D'Or & Sundance Grand prize Winner
Abe Ferrer
Festival Programmer
Visual Communications, USA
Max Tessier
Film Critic, France
Freddie Wong
Film Critic, Hong Kong
Philip Cheah
Programmer
Singapore International Film Festival
Mel Tobias
Film Critic, Canada
Nicolas Palevsky
Film Critic, USA
Dang Nhat Minh
Vietnam Cinema Association
Hanoi, Vietnam
Sonia Albuquerque Oliveira
Producer, Film Event Organizer
Portugal

Alexandra Collin
Zentropa Productions / Trust Film Sales
Denmark
Pierre Swennen
Asia Correspondent
Brussles International Film Festival
Riri Riza
Producer / Director
Miles Films and I Sinema Pangeran
Nonzee Nmibutr
Producer & Director
Thailand
Pen-ek Rattanaruang
Writer & Director
Zhu Wen
Director
China
Jasmine Ng
Director
Singapore
Royston Tan
Director
Singapore
Mark Yoon
Distributor
Korea
Park Duk Ho
Director
Korea
Rey Ventura
Writer
Japan
Nakata Hideao
Director
Japan
Tinne Klint
Denmark
Ilse Hughan
Netherlands

Tanya Meding
Producer
Germany
Michael Koetz
Director
Germany
Patrick Renault
Regional Audiovisual Atache
France
Pekka Lanerva
Director
Finland
Sarah Lutton
Festival Administrator
United Kingdom
Clara Rivalta
Festival Director
Italy
Peter Weibel
Germany
Pei-Chiew-Siah
Malaysia
Rosa Li
Hong Kong
Yon Fan
Hong Kong

Pierre William Glenn
France
Pierre Rissent
Pathe
France
Nicolas Palevsky
Thailand
Mel Tobias
Canada
Christine Murray
USA
Sharon Rutter
USA
Abdulla Al Amri
UAE
Masoud Al Ali
UAE

CINEMANILA 2002
SCREENING SCHEDULE Greenbelt 1 Cinemas 1-15 August 2002

		11:00	2:00	5:00	8:00	11:00
August 2 (Fri)	GB 1	Leaf on a Pillow (Indonesia)	Topless Women Talk About Their Lives (New Zealand)	City of Sadness (Taiwan)	Flickering Lights (Denmark)	The Travelling Salesman (Italy)
	GB 2	The Personals (Taiwan)	The Travelling Salesman (Italy)	Bread and Tulips (Italy)	The Man Who Wasn't There (USA)	Peony Pavilion (Hong Kong)
August 3 (Sat)	GB 1	Bread and Tulips (Italy)	Whispering Sands (Indonesia)	Quitting (China)	Following (UK)	Hollywood Hong Kong (Hong Kong)
	GB 2	Chico (Hungary/Germany/ Croatia/Chile)	Flickering Lights (Denmark)	Piñero (USA)	What Time Is It There? (Taiwan)	6ixtynin9 (Thailand)
August 4 (Sun)	GB 1	Una Casa con Vista al Mar (Venezuela)	The Personals (Taiwan)	Fast Food, Fast Women (Israel)	The Navigators (UK)	Manito (USA)
	GB 2	Taxi para Tres (Chile)	Following (UK)	Francisca (Mexico)	God's Children (Japan)	Hana-bi (Japan)
August 5 (Mon)	GB 1	Pickpocket (Sri Lanka)	Alias La Gringa (Peru)	Chico (Hungary/Germany/ Croatia/Chile)	Quitting (China)	Bashu, the Little Stranger (Iran)
	GB 2	Calmness (India)	Darkness and Light (Taiwan)	Away from Home (Turkey)	Lagaan (India)	(Cont'd) Lagaan (India)
August 6 (Tue)	GB 1	God's Children (Japan)	Calmness (India)	Chicken Rice War (Singapore)	Whispering Sands (Indonesia)	Bread and Tulips (Italy)
	GB 2	Mee Pok Man (Singapore)	The Cabbie (Taiwan)	12 Storeys (Singapore)	I Not Stupid (Singapore)	Chico (Hungary/Germany/ Croatia/Chile)
		11:00	2:00	5:00	8:00	11:00
August 7 (Wed)	GB 1	Friend (Korea)	Away from Home (Turkey)	A Place on Earth (Russia)	Seafood (China/Hong Kong)	6ixtynin9 (Thailand)
	GB 2	Good Hands (Estonia)	Eating Air (Singapore)	Ozon film (France)	Forever Fever (Singapore)	Atanarjuat, the Fast Runner (Canada)
August 8 (Thu)	GB 1	In the Country Where Nothing Happens (Mexico)	Bashu, The Little Stranger (Iran)	Eliana, Eliana (Indonesia)	Following (UK)	Pickpocket (Sri Lanka)
	GB 2	I Not Stupid (Singapore)	Alias La Gringa (Peru)	Gege (Hong Kong)	American Rhapsody (USA/Hungary)	Ring 0 (Japan)
August 9 (Fri)	GB 1	The Navigators (UK)	Eating Air (Singapore)	What Time Is It There? (Taiwan)	Friend (Korea)	Y tu mama tambien (Mexico)
	GB 2	Ozon film (France)	Hollywood Hong Kong (Hong Kong)	The Personals (Taiwan)	Eliana, Eliana (Indonesia)	Taxi para Tres (Chile)
August 10 (Sat)	GB 1	Dog Days (Austria)	Good Hands (Estonia)	Ozon film (France)	Atanarjuat, the Fast Runner (Canada)	Topless Women Talk About Their Lives (New Zealand)
	GB 2	No Man's Land (Bosnia/Belgium)	Manito (USA)	Y Tu Mama Tambien (Mexico)	Heaven (Germany)	Seafood (China /Hong Kong)
August 11 (Sun)	GB 1	City of Sadness (Taiwan)	Lagaan (India)	Manito* (USA) *starts at 6.00	Una Casa con Vista al Mar (Venezuela)	Central Station (Brazil)
	GB 2	Hollywood Hong Kong (Hong Kong)	A Place on Earth (Russia)	Harmful Insect (Japan)	Peony Pavilion (Hong Kong)	Kikujiro (Japan)
		11:00	2:00	5:00	8:00	11:00
August 12 (Mon)	GB 1	Francisca (Mexico)	Gege (Hong Kong)	Ozon film (France)	Atanarjuat, the Fast Runner (Canada)	Topless Women Talk About Their Lives (New Zealand)
	GB 2	Minor Mishaps (Denmark)	Waterboys (Japan)	The Man Who Wasn't There (USA)	Address Unknown (Korea)	Fast Food, Fast Women (Israel)
August 13 (Tue)	GB 1	Hotel (UK / Italy)	Ozon film (France)	No Man's Land (Bosnia/Belgium)	Hana-bi (Japan)	Piñero (USA)
	GB 2	In the Country Where Nothing Happens (Mexico)	Central Station (Brazil)	The Girl from Paris (France)	Kikujiru (Japan)	Ring 0 (Japan)
August 14 (Wed)	GB 1	Le Club des Chomeurs (Luxembourg)	Ring (Japan)	Hotel (UK / Italy)	Friend (Korea)	Address Unknown (Korea)
	GB 2	Orphan of Anyang (China)	American Rhapsody (USA/Hungary)	Ring 2 (Japan)	Waterboys (Japan)	Weekend Plot (China)
August 15 (Thu)	GB 1	Batang Westside (RP)	(Cont'd) Batang Westside (RP)	Ravi Shankar: Between Two Worlds (USA/France)	Lagaan (India)	(cont'd) Lagaan (India)
	GB 2	Weekend Plot (China)	Waterboys (Japan)	Orphan of Anyang (China)	In the Mood For Love (Hong Kong)	Kikujiru (Japan)

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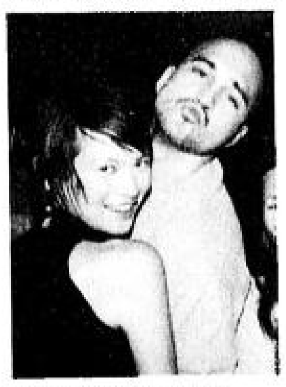
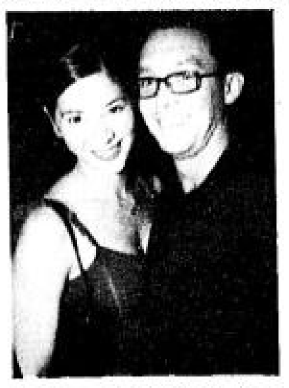
CONGRESS SESSION. Sherwin Gatchalian, Jay Suarez and Michi Valeriano

ROCKSTAR IN PRAVDA. Troy Montero, JM Rodriguez and Paolo Trillo



POUTY LIPS. Tina Pamintuan and KC Montero

COMRADES Ritchie Santos and Rose Montenegro



DJ AND MUSE. Pinky Webb and David Jacob

ACQUARIO'S DJ Montano in fight mode

Fire Ice

Tim Yap

BALANCE is the key to successful living, as many Taoists would say. I believe that extends to nocturnal activities and new hot spots as well. Urban Manila, with its dizzying tales, twists and tantrums, turns on its pulse once again. Just when you think there's nowhere else to hop, a whole slew of night haunts pop up, quenching the thirst of the hip, young partyphile.

Acquario, by far the most chic spot this side of town, with its mix of hip urbanites, true-blue Malatephiles, the artsy and the fartsy—recently opened its doors via a "silver and white" bash concocted by Manila's answer to **Ian Schrager**, chi-chi restaurateur **DJ Montano.** (I heard he is planning to put up, again with **Ed Calma**, a modern Shanghainese resto in the space of Luna.)

Amid the pouring rain, a tent was set up from the foyer of the Maria Orosa strip that leads to the shared Raj (DJ's mod Indian resto, as if you didn't know) and Acquario courtyard. Blinding strobes bedazzle the senses until you reach the gates of Nirvana—a world of white, white and white. Welcome to Acquario Liquid Lounge.

Much has been said about its Ed Calma cold interiors. It provides the feel of an Ice Hotel to being inside a toothpaste or the house of Marshmallow man. Acquario is in a world totally its own. The place may give you visions of ice crystals and snowfields, but the people present on any given night make it hotter than hot.

A-listers

Partyphiles gravitate toward the bar to chill with friends or to cruise the scene—eye contact is crucial, whether you are savoring the sweets (cocktails or eye candy, it's your choice) or just waiting for a wink. Maybe it's the very flattering bluish haze of the bar's lighting, which adds to the sexy mood as soon as you enter and romp on its ramp—several hi's, hello's, naughty glances and air kisses after.

That night, scene-shakers from young fashion, art, media and society all gathered to toast their new home. Ballet Philippines did a "joie du dance" number with dancers in goggles and swimwear frolicking amid the A-(for Acquario) listers. **Denisa Reyes** was visibly pleased seeing now-society savoring the vibe that her dancers exuded. Ballet goes to a bar, so that young urbanites realize there's so much more to discover about art and dance. It was a great idea, and an excellent exchange of energy, to say the least.

THE FUN LIFE. Lala Ilao, Faith Lavarro and Telisha Arguelles make up the TFL Elite Angels, every Wednesday at Wasabi.

V OPENS TOMORROW. Vina Morales at Pravda

DJ was all over, attending to his opening night guests in a silver and white Dior suit. Scene muse **Kara Tolentino** was also in a frolicky mood that white hot night.

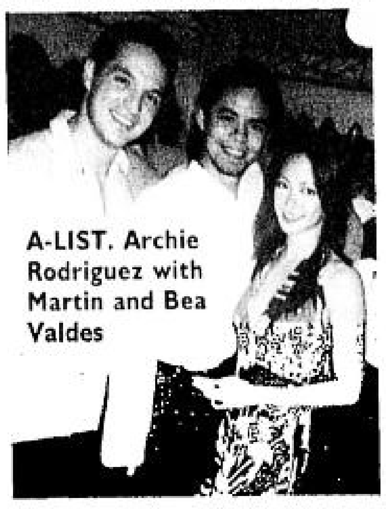
So what do I think is the magic of this new Maria Orosa hip spot? "There's a line outside and there's a line inside!" to borrow a line from DJ's favorite British boob-tube bimbo, **Patsy**. And that's for the to-die-for cocktails that they serve, mind you. How totally abfab!

Capital of cool

A week before the white-and-silver shebang, it was a red-and-black affair (notice the two-color themes of this party season). No, it wasn't a revolution, but close. In terms of beautiful faces and pulsating party vibe, Pravda has been the capital of cool this side of Makati. On any given midweek, you'll find the city's hip and hot young set grooving at this unpretentious Reposo street joint.

Its fire comes from its interiors—touches of Russian red from velvet curtains to wall murals and sofas. Not to mention its driving force, the party scene's most dashing gentleman pied piper **Paolo Trillo**. Its cool comes from the mix of people; hipsters from both the R&B and the house music groupies who flock to gyrate to DJ **Steve Mills** on Wednesdays and to **Manolet Dario**, **David Jacob**, **Adrian Cuenca** or **Raji Mata** on Thursdays. Fridays take on a new spin with the newly launched "Plush," with **Edge Pamute** at the helm, fast gaining its own cult following.

AFTER ACQUARIO. Scene muses Trish Cu-Unjieng, Wendy Puyat and Celine Lopez



A-LIST. Archie Rodriguez with Martin and Bea Valdes

People-watching and flirting reach a new peak when you are inside Pravda, undisputed in its status on the "hot," "still-hot" and the "will-be-hotter" lists.

That anniversary evening, young society was in full attendance. **Romeo Gigli** eyewear-clad girls in white—the TFL Elite angels were all over the dance floor, raising the vibe several notches higher with their hips jiggling all over the place. I also spotted **Faith Lavarro** getting jiggy, high from her sexy TFL launch at Wasabi (every Wednesday) to ask her what "TFL—the first international image team" meant. "The fun life!" she whispered, smiling as she continued to shake her booty. Amen to that.

PARTY CENTRAL. Cher Calvin and Jenny Serrano

Looking back on the past few weeks, all the events were held during the height of the rainy season, when the impression was that everyone would just choose to stay home. I think (this is the other side of me talking) the only two reasons to stay home is either you are sick, or had too much partying the previous night (though even that doesn't stop others). Okay, having someone to cuddle with (a lover or a pet dog or cat) is a good reason, too.

I guess nothing will stop Manila from having a good time.

Dry weekend

Now that the rains have stopped to pour, what more? Last Saturday, which was the first "dry" weekend of this month (can't believe July went by so quickly), **Yaparazzi** did a quick count around the city—from the new Greenbelt 2 to Libis to Malate—to find all areas packed! You wouldn't think there would be traffic at 1 a.m., but in some spots (Culture Club and Sibil in Libis had lines from here till eternity), there was.

Tomorrow, Thursday, V opens its doors. Yes, it is the former Venezia, in short cut. A quick peek last Sunday revealed renovated black-and-white striped interiors—a very Ascot scene from "My Fair Lady."

Before that on the same day, wear red and hop by the Glorietta Activity Center at 6 p.m. for the Changchun Acrobatic Troupe. This is to coincide with the opening of Bench China—hurrahs to you, **Ben**.

This weekend, if you have no plans yet, why don't you hop onto a plane and head over to Boracay? Why? Well, it's the Bazzurra Bar and Disco's anniversary, that's what.

If you are in town, then the party to check out this Saturday night (and all Saturdays of August) is the Stars night at Dish. Yes, it may be too early for nostalgia, but for sentimental Manilans, Stars was a shining example of how it was to party—so click those heels, Dorothy, and head over to Dish, to feel like "a diamond in the sky." Twinkle, twinkle!

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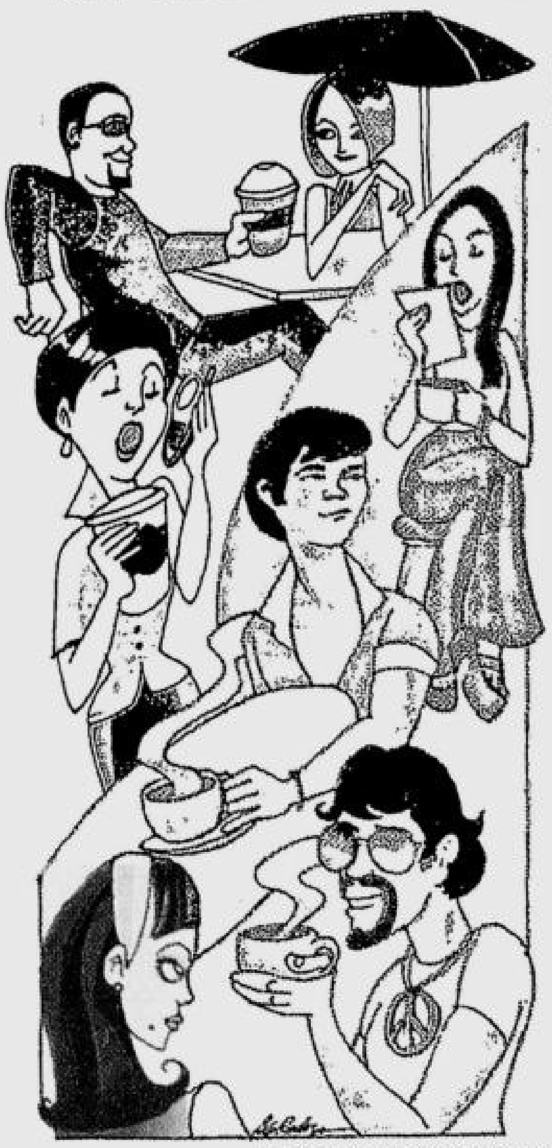

ILLUSTRATON: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

By Catherine Young
2bU! Correspondent

LIKE many stressed-out college students, I rely on coffee to keep myself awake during those long nights of schoolwork. When I don't have enough cash for designer coffee, cafeteria coffee is the next best thing. The girl selling coffee in UP's Casaa canteen already knows my usual: a large-sized order of cold coffee, with no ice—to maximize the capacity of the humble plastic cup.

From the humble beverage to a status symbol, coffee certainly has come a long way—especially for something apparently discovered accidentally by some Ethiopian goatherd.

When my coffee-shop trips don't include reading, I usually sit back with my cup and observe the patrons. Some are obviously still in school, hunched over their books and staying there for hours. Many are there on a business call, with the coffee invigorating them for another corporate brainstorming session.

But coffee-shop talk was not all-innocent in the olden days. In Manila, coffee shops in the '80s were sites for political gossip and dissent. Art was also closely identified with coffee shops in those days. The café was the setting for literature. Late-night poetry readings were held there.

Coffee became associated with the intelligentsia of society. Coffeehouses were the scenes of vibrant exchanges of ideas. People regarded coffeehouse discussions as a meeting of the minds. The famous French philosopher Voltaire was reportedly a coffee lover in his time, downing a whopping 50 cups a day.

Multibillion-dollar industry

At present, most coffeehouses have done away with the dark brooding atmosphere. Marketing strategists have given these cafés a

THE COFFEE-SHOP/ p.E2

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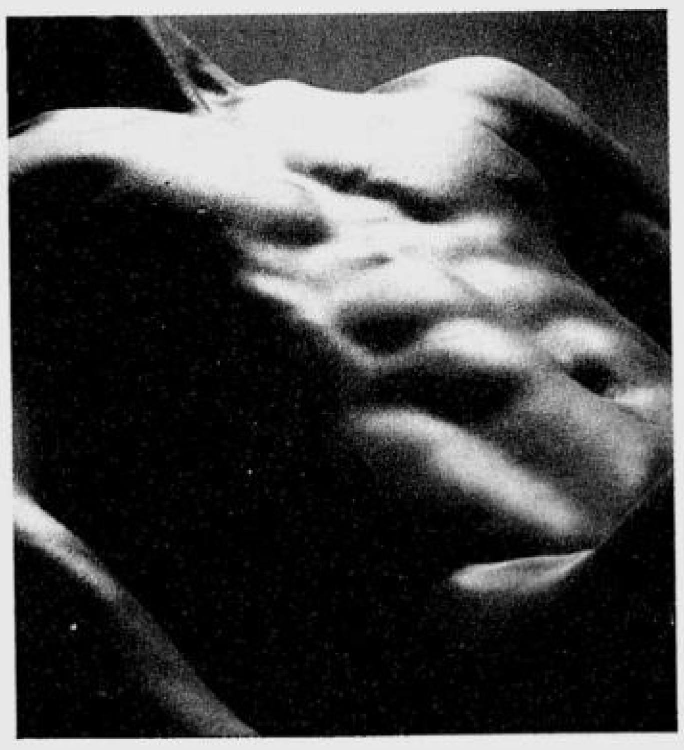
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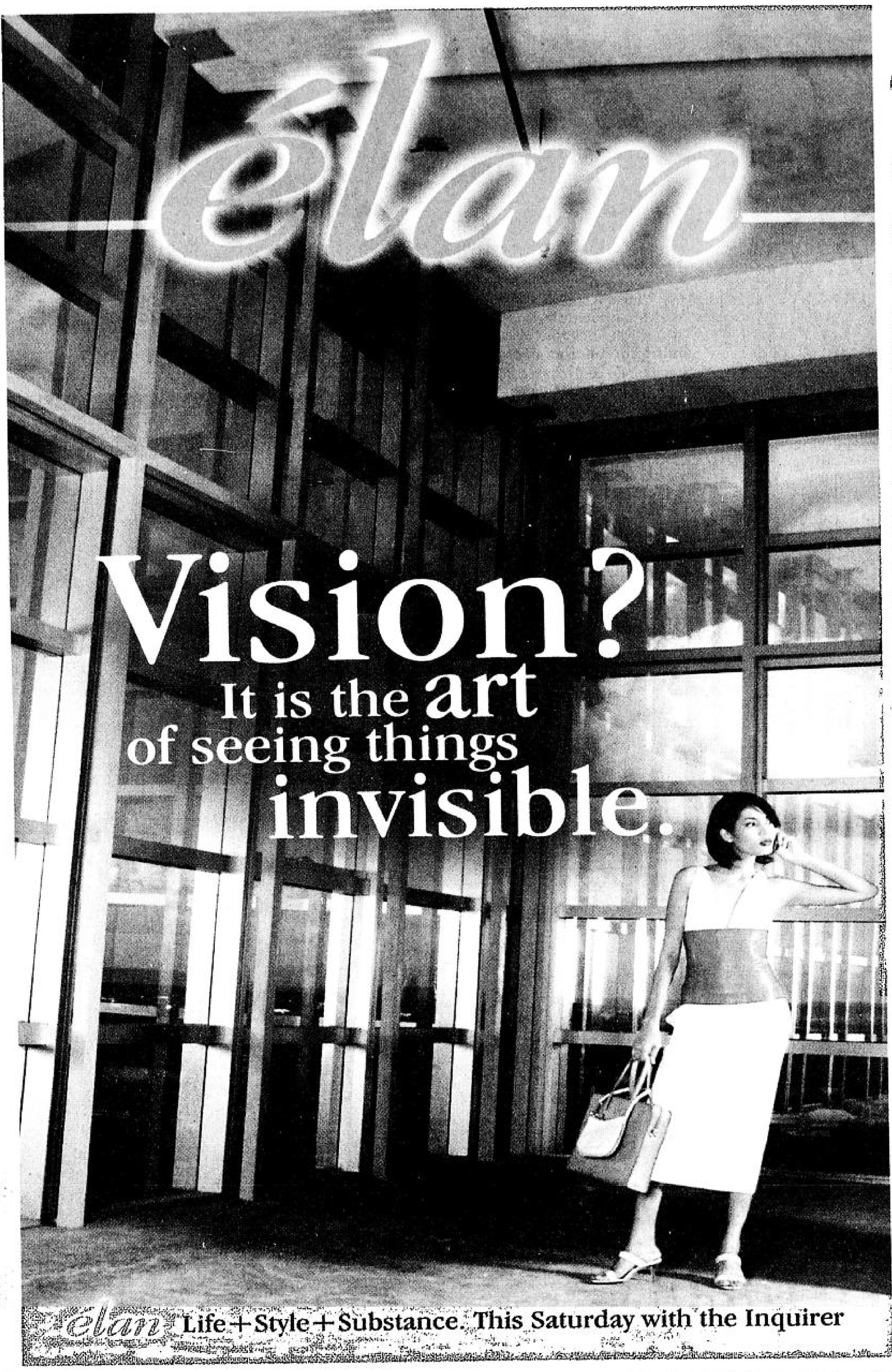
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The coffee-shop culture

From page E1

makeover, replacing dark with dim, sober for art deco. Cafés are now equipped with office-sized desks complete with reading lamps for the writers and students to work on. The comfortable couches are also designed for the clientele to sit, sip and exchange ideas.

The growth of the coffee-shop culture has made coffee a multi-billion-dollar industry. The coffee shop has become the place to do almost everything in—paper work, meetings and friendly get-togethers. In Manila alone, one will be stumped at how ubiquitous coffee shops are. There are Starbucks, Seattle's Best, Fiorgelato, UCC Cafe, San Francisco Coffee, to name only a few.

If the sheer number of coffee shops does not intimidate you, the menu probably will. "Just coffee" has metamorphosed into Mochaccinos, Frappuccinos and macchiatos. More daring alternatives include Rhumba, Chai Latté and Raspberry Mocha Kiss. Strange and intriguing names include drip coffee, con panna and Toddy Coffee. The unlimited flavors leave one paralyzed with indecision. It also leaves the customer wanting more. Café founders have probably seen that the greater the variety, the greater the frequency of the consumer's visits.

The coffee lifestyle has become a status symbol. The steep prices alone make one identify with the wealthy class when one holds up a cup. Now, status is based on how much money one can spend, not one's affinity to a cause. A cup of black coffee from Starbucks may taste the same as a cup of generic black coffee, but they do not mean the same thing.

Marketing has contributed a lot to the current status enjoyed by coffee shops. Coffee selections are advertised in attractively designed menus, available not in small, medium and large sizes, but in "tall, grande and venti" portions. The word Frappuccino has also become a staple in the language—a product that caters to the flavored coffee drinker. It is designer coffee for designer cafés.

Also, like sex, French words sell. Café au lait, Café Cremier, Cafe Cinnamonier are only a few of the French words that leave you feeling sophisticated (they also make your tongue twist when you place your order). We are willing to pay 10 times more because there are French words all over the place. The pastries also cost at least twice the generic brand. Ditto with the lunches.

Even the café personnel are a testament to the sophistication that the coffee shop embodies. The persons at the counter hardly speak Tagalog; they look like yuppies; they speak English with an American accent. Now, you say "to go" instead of the Filipino "take out," and "for here" instead of "dine in." The Americanized baristas may be intimidating to some, making ordering more difficult than it already is.

It is interesting to see how society defines sophistication in its patronage of coffeehouses. Exotic food sources, a European vocabulary, and a daily calendar approximating the daily grind of Western people have become a major part of what class has come to mean for us. Because coffeehouses have all these, places like Starbucks and Seattle's Best have come to embody a culture of sophistication. This explains why we are willing to pay plenty of money for something as mundane as coffee.

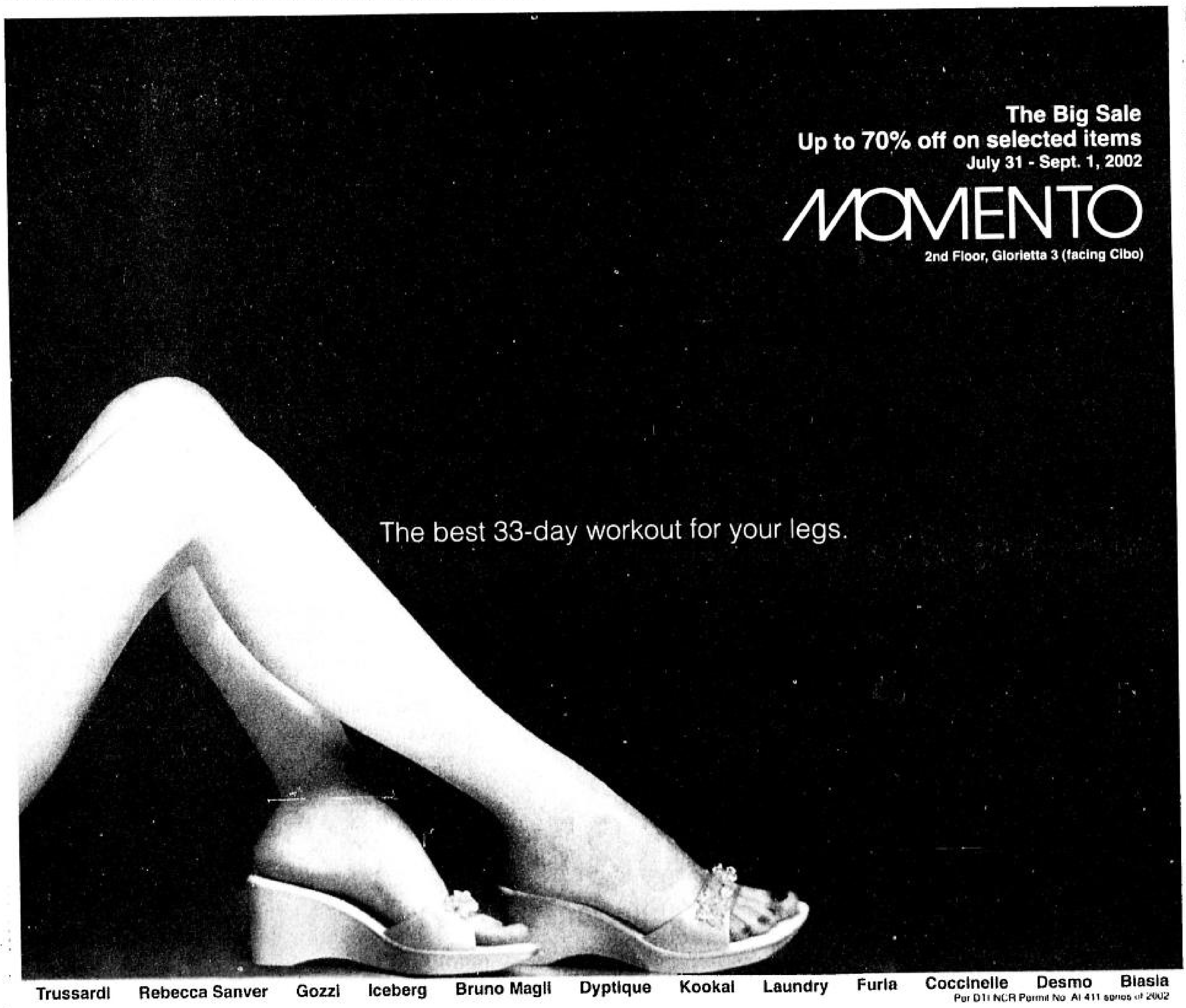
Timeless

The great thing about coffeehouses is their timelessness. People will always need to stay awake, people will always want to feel smart and sophisticated. All this boils down to one brilliant capitalistic strategy—turn coffee into art; make it into a smart beverage and serve it to consumers in a beautifully decorated café.

Admit it: we just cannot get enough of coffee. Nor will the café business die out anytime soon. But evidently, there is a need for a critical look at coffee and the culture it has spawned.

When you order a cappuccino, you don't just pay for the coffee; you also pay for the symbol it has come to represent. Coffee is not just coffee anymore; it is symbolic of the things we value as a society: art, intelligence and refined tastes. As long as there are people wanting intellectual discussions and sophisticated places to hang out in, coffee shops are here to stay.

E-mail the author at china_tree @i-manila.com.ph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Counseling hotlines extend service hours

DIAL-A-FRIEND Teen Hotlines, the teen counseling project of the Foundation for Adolescent Development Inc. (FAD), extends its service hours until 10 p.m. starting Aug. 1.

With its 12-hour run starting at 10 a.m., Dial-A-Friend—hotline numbers 734-8902 to -03 and 734-9663 to -64—will now be able to serve more people.

The extension was made possible with the support of the Rotary Club of Chinatown.

Dial-A-Friend was launched by FAD 11 years ago with Lea Salonga and the teen group Menudo (which included the young Ricky Martin) as celebrity endorsers. Since then, it has helped thousands of young adults with personal problems.

Aurora Silayan-Go, president of FAD, said sometimes people only needed someone to talk to. The task of the counselor, she said, was to identify the main concern of the caller and come up with the proper intervention, not an easy task to do when the caller was ashamed or not ready to open up. By building rapport, questioning, probing and by letting callers express their feelings in an atmosphere of trust, the counselor builds a relationship encouraging the client to share his/her real problem.

FAD also offers the E-mail-A-Friend service. Visit www.teenfad.ph and click the Email-A-Friend button.

Prepare to conquer
Manila's streets

By Ma. Angela V. Ignacio
2bU! Correspondent, Ateneo de Manila University

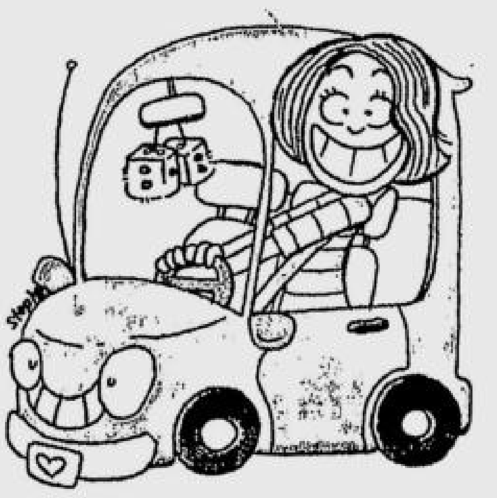


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

FOR SOME people, driving a car is as easy as riding a bike. But for others, thoughts of getting stuck in hour-long traffic jams or getting into accidents could turn them into nervous wrecks even before they leave their garages. The thought of getting out there on the road alone might be even more terrifying if you are a first-time driver. However, driving, even if you are a first-timer, does not have to be an ordeal if you know the proper things to do and you prepare yourself for anything. Here are some things to help you get started.

Get your car ready.

Keep in mind the basics. Check everything — gasoline, tires, lights, brakes, the works — before you leave. Apply what you've learned in driving school.

Accessorize.

This does not mean lace and trimmings, although you can always put car fresheners, throw pillows and whatever you want to add to make your car nicer. But "accessorizing" means making sure you have in the trunk the right tools, a spare tire, brake fluid and other stuff you'll need for emergencies.

> If you're driving on your own for the first time, here are some tried-and-tested tips to keep yourself safe and sane on the road

Have a regular check-up.

Bring your car to a service center or gasoline station every once in a while for a check-up. Even while stopping for gas, ask the attendants to check your tire pressure and everything else that needs to be checked.

Get yourself ready.

Stock up on necessities. With traffic jams being pretty much a regular feature of urban life, put a water bottle, some candies or anything you can nibble on if you get hungry or thirsty. Carry a pair of slippers or flat shoes so you can change your footwear, if it is not suited for driving.

Since the weather can be so unpredictable, keep umbrellas, car shades, a jacket and some extra clothes in the trunk and, in extreme cases, a urine bag. Most importantly, make sure you have your license and the car papers (OR/CR) with you. Your car may look like an extension of your house, but hey, it helps to be prepared.

Keep your cool.

Some people get really intense when they're driving. They can be overly enthusiastic horn blowers or maniacs that overtake others cars at breakneck speed. Some even sound like banshees using every curse word they know.

No matter what, it's crucial to keep your cool even when some jerk cuts in front of you or blasts his horn to compel you to move even through a red light. I am a strong believer of karma so I would rather let fate (and the Metro Manila Development Authority) deal with unruly drivers.

Stay sober.

This may seem like something that does not have to be said, but since there are still some cave people who never seem to get it, it needs repeating: don't drink and drive.

Either you stay sober and live to drive another day or drink and end up not waking at all.

Avoid multitasking.

When you're driving, keep your eyes on the road and your hands on the wheel. Don't attempt to do things other than drive, and that means no cellular phones while you are on the road.

Be humble.

You may be proud of your driving skills, but that doesn't give you the right to act like you own the streets. Follow stoplights and road signs. Let pedestrians have priority in the use of the streets, and avoid insisting on your right of way as much as possible. Be aggressive, but not too aggressive. A little road courtesy never hurts anyone.

Be careful.

With the ever-increasing reports of car thefts and other crimes that happen at night, you can never be too careful, especially if you're female and alone in a car. Make sure all the car doors are locked and your cell phone charged in case of emergencies.

When a person flags you down, never roll down your window or unlock the doors. Just keep going. If your way gets blocked by that person or another car, blow your horn to attract attention. It might just be a ploy to get you to open your door and/or leave your car. If you're unsure whether the incident is a scam or not, call or go to the nearest police station and inform them of the situation just in case the person really needs help.

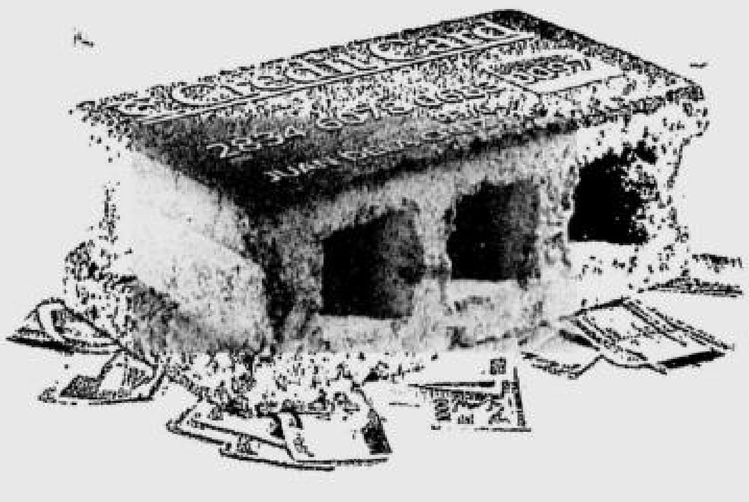
Of course, as much as you can, try to travel in groups.

E-mail the author at aoshi_no_miko@hotmail.com.

Rap-metal band's gift

LAST June, Odyssey and EMI, together with Slapshock, the country's hardest working rap-metal band, gave away rare and collectible Slapshock framed memorabilia to two lucky winners at Odyssey Megamall. Odyssey has always given their full support to local acts like Slapshock since bands like them are shining examples of the Filipino's world-class talent.

Credit card debts weighing your budget down?



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Super shopping at Super SM Hypermarket

Since it opened last year, Super SM Hypermarket's super choices, super prices, and super shopping experience have been packing in the crowds.

Super SM is a take-off from the hypermarket concept which combines supermarket, general merchandise, and discount retailing. Hypermarkets are basically of European origin, some of the best known of which are Carrefour and Casino. In the US, outlets of this type include Wal-Mart and Super K-Mart.

Super SM provides one-stop shopping convenience by combining a carefully selected range of food and general merchandise items. The spacious 15,000 square meter hypermarket is designed to save customers time and money, and at the same time enhance the total shopping experience.

The hypermarket's much-talked about food area includes the freshest picks at the Fresh Food and Vegetable section; the choicest cuts at the Meat and Poultry section; fresh seafood selections; and a wide range of dairy, deli, and grocery items. In fact, many residents from neighboring subdivisions have replaced going to the wet market to shop at the hypermarket because of its fresh produce and meticulous hygiene standards, and have even established their *suki* with the store's friendly and knowledgeable staff.

Not to be missed is the Prepared Food section which offers ready-to-go food items such as succulent roasted chicken, roasted *liempo*, and freshly prepared *sushi*. Rigid standards on freshness, quality, and cleanliness are maintained in this section.

Bake-Off, the bakery section, is another customer favorite. Available fresh from the oven are locally baked goodies such as hot pandesal, ensaymada, Spanish bread and muffins as well as Italian breads like *foccacia* and *ciabatta*.

Super SM also features 17 general merchandise departments including women's, men's, children's, and infant's wear and accessories; a full line of shoes; houseware and furniture; appliances; audio and video equipment; sporting goods; and hardware items.

Moreover, Super SM's spacious aisles, dynamic presentation of merchandise, more than 50 check-out lanes, and free covered parking enhance customer convenience. Completing the super shopping experience is the **walkalator**, where one can wheel down his purchases in shopping carts straight down the well-ventilated parking area.

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For everyday living

2nd Floor, SM Supercenter, Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque Store Hours: 10am to 10 pm

Likewise, shoppers can purchase gift certificates, prepaid phone and internet cards at the Customer Service counter; and avail of foreign exchange services, pay utility bills and purchase show tickets at the Services Counter. They can also have their gifts wrapped at the Gift Wrapping Counter and avail of mailing and photocopying services.

Super Promos

Apart from a super shopping experience, Super SM Hypermarket also offers great promos. Bringing a lot of excitement to its shoppers is the ongoing **Shop & Win** raffle promo where shoppers with a P500 minimum purchase will get the chance to win P10,000 worth of gift cheques daily.

Over seventy lucky winners went home with P10,000 when the promo was first launched in October last year. Since the success of its first run, the **Shop & Win** raffle promo is currently on its second run – only this time with bigger and more exciting prizes at stake in its quarterly draws: P500,000 on July 6, 2002; P700,000 on October 5, 2002; and P1,000,000 on January 4, 2003.

Super In-Store Fun

- **Roast Chicken Promo** - a minimum purchase of P500 entitles the shopper to buy one whole roasted chicken for only P99, instead of its usual price of P119.
- **Super Corners** - interactive promotional areas with exciting games, freebies and discounts.
- **Seasonal Promos** are also being done on a regular basis to create continuous excitement for Super SM Hypermarket shoppers. They can look forward to super prizes in the third and fourth quarters of the year.

Super Finds

- **Value Packs** - Save up to 80% with these packs which includes two items and an extra item absolutely free. For example, a shopper who purchases a Value Pack which includes two packets of Royal Salad Macaroni gets a packet of Ladies Choice Spaghetti Sauce absolutely free!
- **Family Packs** - specially bundled packs great for stocking up for family or business needs.

Super SM Hypermarket is located at the Second Level of SM Supercenter Sucat along A. Santos Avenue in Parañaque City.

For feedback, text us at (0918)917-5026 or email us at ls_2bu@inquirer.com.ph or log on to

LIFESTYLE

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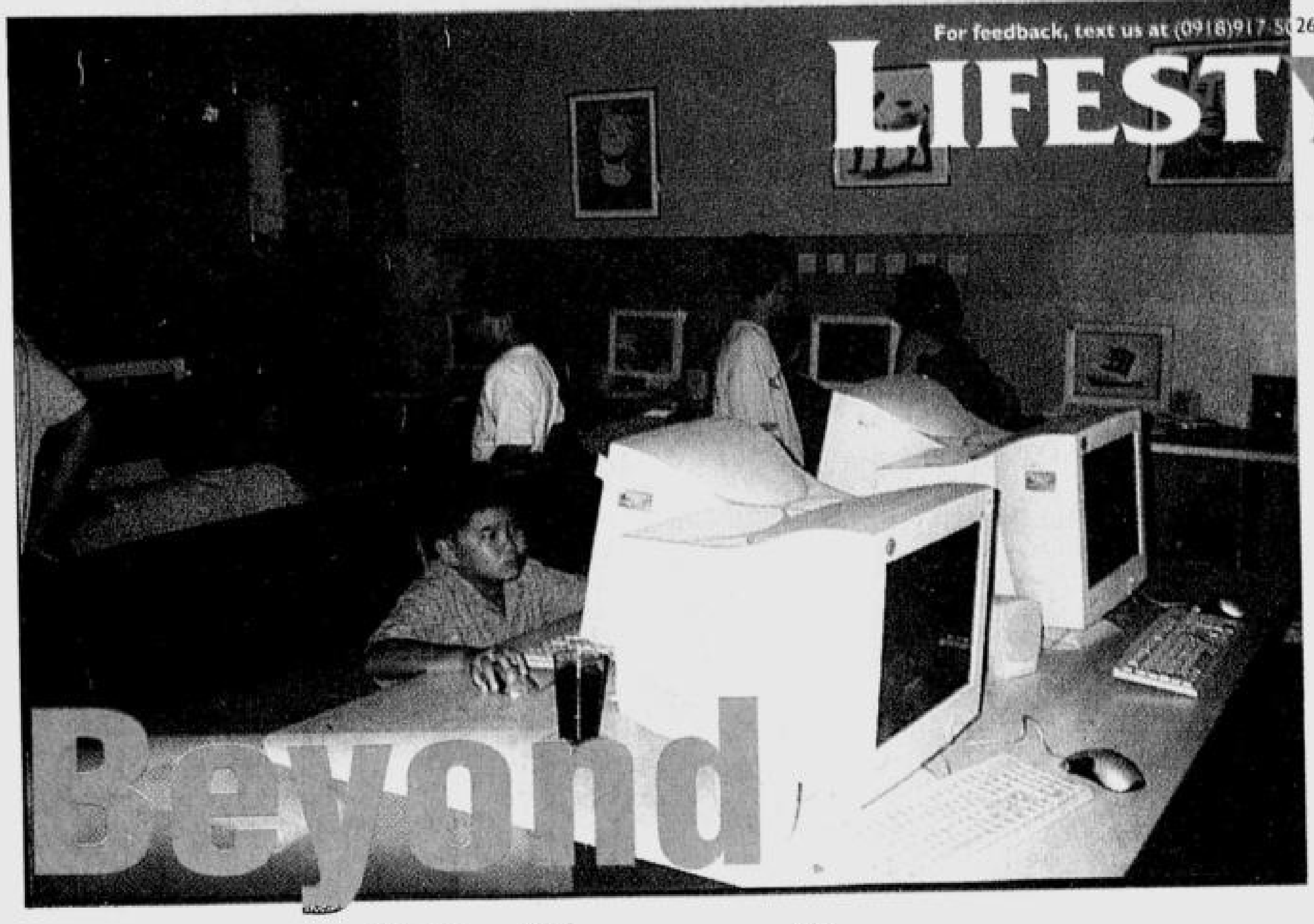


Beyond the off-beaten track

Here are choice alternative hangouts for the nonconformist you

MONTEREY JACK'S AND POWERPLAY. Network gaming at its finest

CHEF & Brewer's Supreme Pizza, Lengua Estofado and Seafood Marinara

Text and photos by Melissa R. Lim
2bU! Correspondent

YOU go to the same old places week after week and it gets old. As much as you love TGIFriday's and Starbucks as the next guy, sometimes you just have to try something new to stay sane. So you go about the metro looking for fresh new places you can hang out in. (Or, in this case, give up your favorite hiding places in the name of goodwill for those who are still stuck in their little ruts and want a change of scenery.)

Monterey Jack's and Powerplay

I'm probably the only person who goes inside a Net café just to eat.

Located inside Powerplay in the iBank Complex on Ortigas Avenue, Monterey Jack's is known only to the gamers in the area. I came across it when some friends thought that helping me overcome my 3D-imparity by playing CounterStrike together was a brilliant idea. It was an exercise in futility as I couldn't tell the walls apart from the ground. But I did find a few things to occupy myself with while my pals busied themselves with "killing" each other.

Three things to be exact: a 1/3-pound flamed burger, crispy chicken fingers and mozzarella sticks. The fact that I got away with all that good food for just about P190 was mind-boggling and worthy of many happy returns. And (if you'll excuse the inanity) many happy returning I did—notwithstanding the fact that the only things I really do there are pig out and hog one of the two billiard tables.

You should try the Chili Wings and Mushroom Alfredo. Around P200 should cover a normal meal, provided, of course, that you don't eat as much as I do.

My friends love it there because they insist it's "gaming at its finest." When asked why, one of them plunked me down on the couch, nodded, and immediately returned to shooting soldiers that seemed to keep popping right out of the woodwork. (So much for conversation.) They do have the most comfortable seats of all the Net cafés I've been to so far. It's a great place to hang out and pass time in.

Chef & Brewer

Located in the corner of Emerald Avenue and Sapphire Street in Ortigas, Chef & Brewer makes for a splendid mid-afternoon coffee place. It's lovely inside. It's quiet and peaceful, and if you're lucky enough to get a table by the window, you can just watch people and cars pass by while getting your caffeine fix.

Their food and bar menu are probably the most extensive I've ever come across. They have the good old-fashioned brewed coffee, latté and cappuccino. If you want something other than the usual stuff, try the Irish Crème or Cookies & Crème. If you don't want coffee, you can pick a tea variant from among a dozen choices—peppermint, chamomile, green tea.

If you're going there for either lunch or dinner, you should try either the Seafood Marinara or the Lengua Estofado—the former hailed by a pasta-addict friend as the best she's ever tasted. The oysters are among the more popular choices. Entrées average at around P300 while appetizers (like Calamares, Smoked Tanguigue and Squid Heads) range from P150-P400.

If you're there just for the coffee or tea, you should be perfectly safe with P150. If you're planning to eat, make sure you bring at least P500. Chef & Brewer is a lot more expensive than most other places I go to, which is why I tend to go there just for coffee. But hey, if you have the means, go for it. Try catching the nightly live performances. If you're going there on a Saturday night, go a little earlier than 9 p.m. so you can get a good table.

Perk 21

We all have our favorite places to hang out in. This one's mine. I'll probably regret telling all of you about this especially if I find myself having a hard time getting a good table after this piece comes out, but hey, I'll worry about that when it happens.

Located on the second floor of the Liberty Center on Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong, it's pretty much a quiet place. Most customers are regulars and just live around the area. With none of those insanely bright lights and the fast-food kind of service you get from most coffee shops these days, it brings to mind the good old concept of what a café should be.

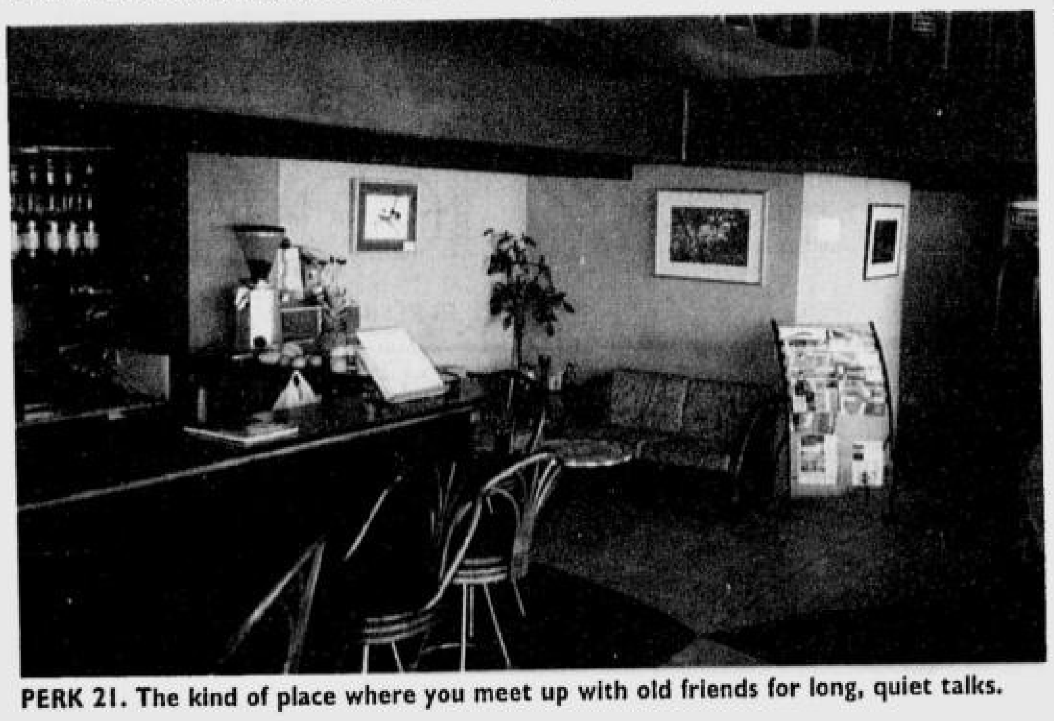
It's the kind of place where you meet up with old friends for long, quiet talks and catching up. No one will stand over your shoulder, blatantly waiting for you to finish your drink and vacate the table. This is where just about anyone can settle in with a book and read for hours on end; where one can bring a laptop or notebook and just sit there and write to their hearts' content.

They have bottomless brewed coffee at P55 and that just tickles the cheapskate in me bright pink. You can also try Java Loca (P95), which is a concoction of espresso, cocoa, chocolate ice cream, whipped cream, mallows and chocolate syrup. Blind Side (P75) is a mixture of espresso, Baileys and chocolate syrup.

You have to try one of the mini-cakes: Indulgence, Café Bolero and Harlequin Gateau. I should have pictures of these included in this article, but since I'm a klutz with the camera, I screwed up those shots. But take my word for it, they look good enough to inhale.

If it's just coffee and desserts you're after, you'll need about P200-P300. If you're hungry, add another hundred for a sandwich and you're set.

If they had a little less pop music and perhaps a couple of Nina Simone and Fiona Apple CDs, they'd be perfect.



PERK 21. The kind of place where you meet up with old friends for long, quiet talks.

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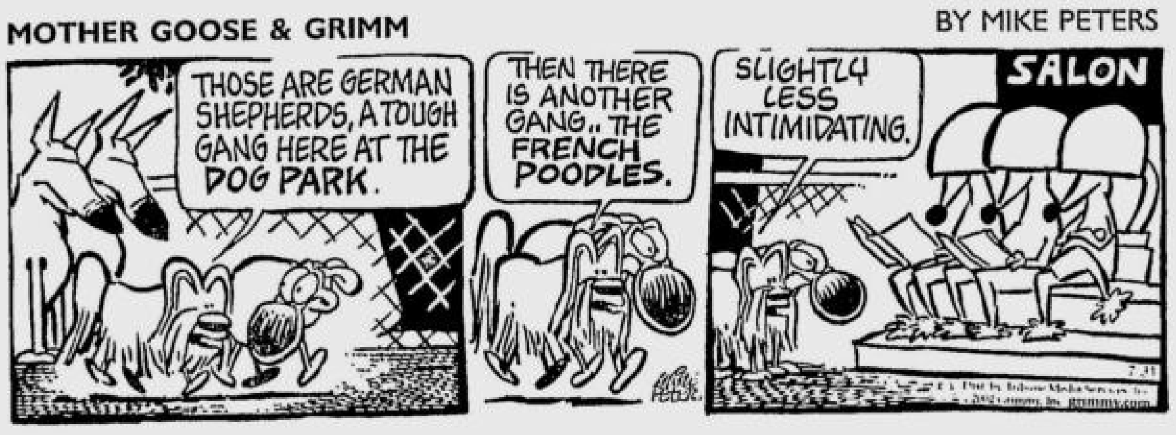
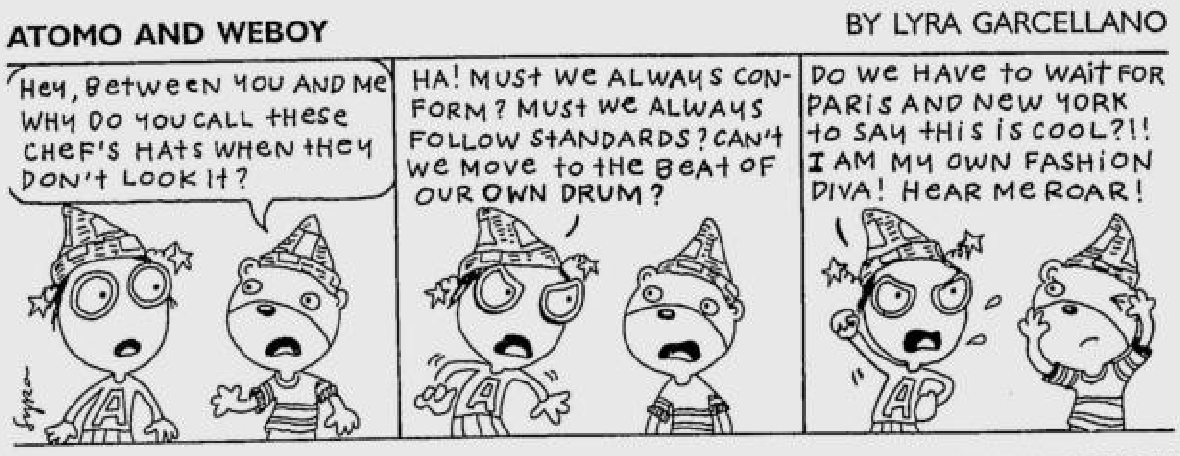
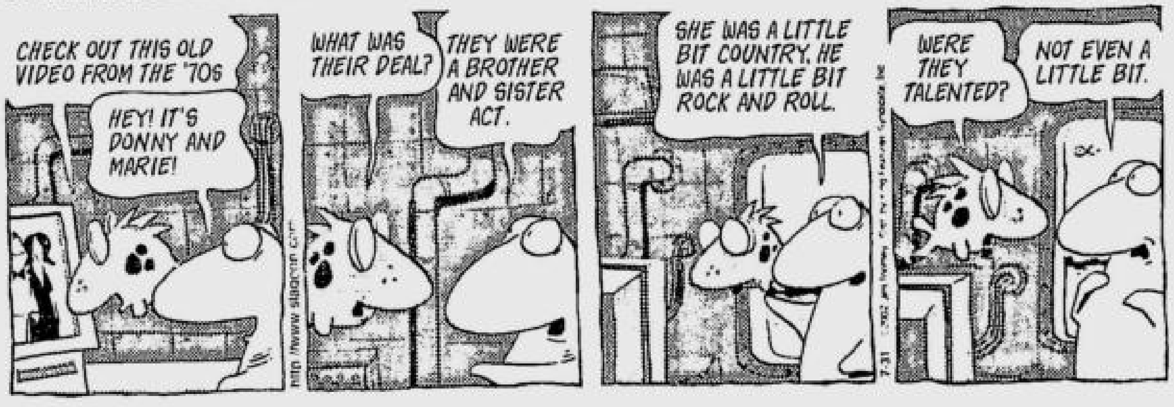
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM BY MIKE PETERS


THOSE ARE GERMAN SHEPHERDS, A TOUGH GANG HERE AT THE DOG PARK.
THEN THERE IS ANOTHER GANG.. THE FRENCH POODLES.
SLIGHTLY LESS INTIMIDATING.
SALON

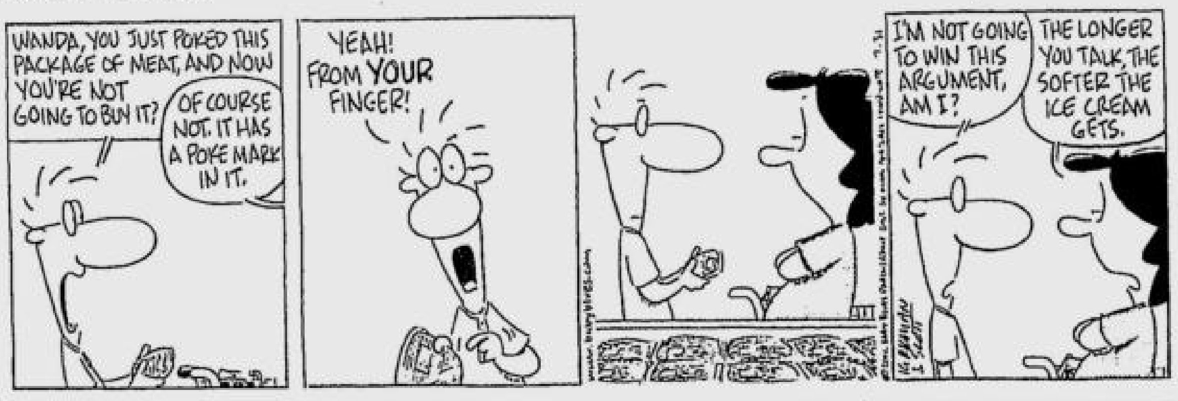
ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Hey, Between you and me why do you call these chef's hats when they don't look it?
HA! Must we always con-form? Must we always follow standards? Can't we move to the beat of our own drum?
Do we have to wait for Paris and New York to say this is cool?!! I am my own fashion diva! Hear me roar!

SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY


CHECK OUT THIS OLD VIDEO FROM THE '70S
HEY! IT'S DONNY AND MARIE!
WHAT WAS THEIR DEAL?
THEY WERE A BROTHER AND SISTER ACT.
SHE WAS A LITTLE BIT COUNTRY. HE WAS A LITTLE BIT ROCK AND ROLL.
WERE THEY TALENTED?
NOT EVEN A LITTLE BIT.

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


WANDA, YOU JUST POKED THIS PACKAGE OF MEAT, AND NOW YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BUY IT?
OF COURSE NOT. IT HAS A POKE MARK IN IT.
YEAH! FROM YOUR FINGER!
I'M NOT GOING TO WIN THIS ARGUMENT, AM I?
THE LONGER YOU TALK, THE SOFTER THE ICE CREAM GETS.

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Gary Lewis, Wesley Snipes, J.K. Rowling

Happy Birthday: You will want to get involved in the sorts of partnerships that will stimulate your mind and further your position. You will discover things about yourself that you never knew, causing you to readdress who you are and what you really want out of life. This is a year of change, so don't let it pass you by. Your numbers are 5, 22, 31, 33, 45, 47

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your drive will be unbeatable. If you are quick to take action you will be far ahead of any competition. Entertain the people who can help you further your interests.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Deception in a relationship is likely. You will attract unusual people and must be careful not to get involved. You'll be tempted, but you must think of the consequences.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You should stand up and speak your mind today. You will be surprised at the number of people who are willing to join your cause. You have the charisma to get things going.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You'll want everyone to do things your way at work, and that isn't likely to add to your popularity today. This is not the time to force your opinion and attitude on colleagues or relatives.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Expressing your beliefs and working toward a worthwhile cause will bring you the most satisfaction. Your desire to travel and experience foreign cultures will lead you to the Internet.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Be prepared to deal with joint financial transitions. Business trips will be necessary if you really want to accomplish something. Follow your gut feelings today if you are faced with an important decision.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You can gain popularity if you join a group that interests you. Don't be too shy to get out on your own. Your intellectual charm and wit will make others gravitate to your side.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You are likely to overspend on your home and family today. Professional disappointments and setbacks are likely. Your career plans may be faulty. Rethink your motives and your future direction.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You will have a greater interest in creative endeavors. Sports events will be entertaining and invigorating. You will have an urge to gamble but must be willing to part with whatever you bet.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You will find yourself in an unusual circumstance today regarding inheritance or taking care of other people's money or affairs. Your approach to the way you handle such matters will upset some relatives.

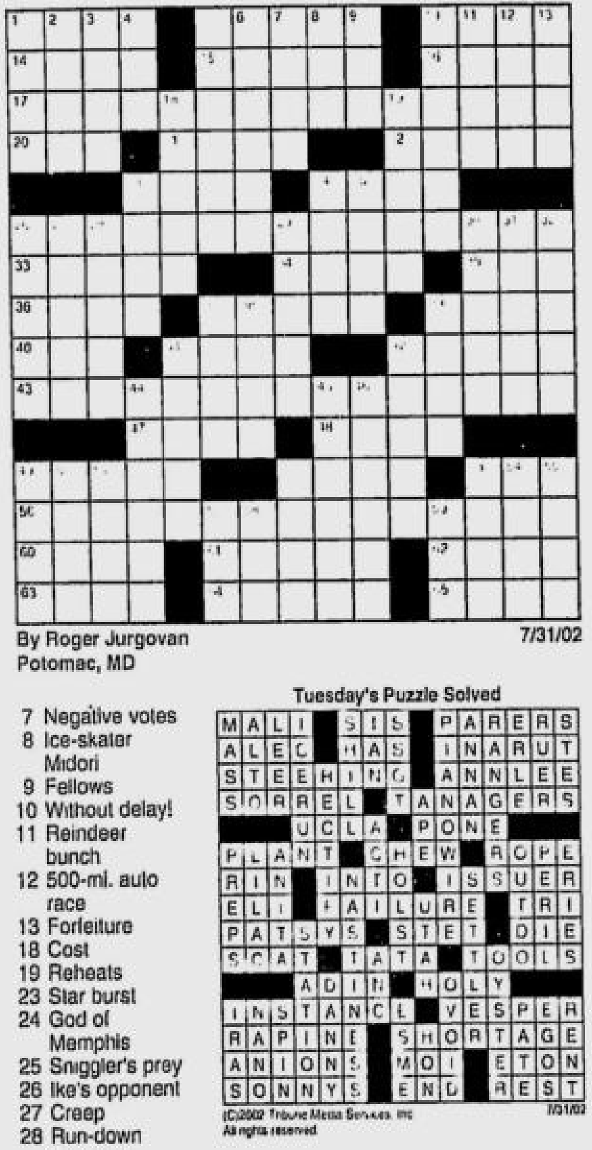
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You will enjoy entertainment and games that require mental skill. Romantic opportunities will develop through the places, groups and activities you pursue. Your concern with children should be attended to.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You will be intent on getting ahead today. You will work hard to make your family proud of you. Your moneymaking ideas will be good, but untrustworthy acquaintances may try to take credit for your work.

Birthday Baby: You have a very creative imagination with the ability to visualize and elaborate. You will be admired for your unique approach to life.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Roger Jurgovan
Potomac, MD

7/31/02

ACROSS
1 Lip
5 Sturdy fabric
10 Comic Silvers
14 Inimical
15 Maternally related
16 Nevada destination
17 This puzzle's theme
20 Extremity
21 Male sheep
22 Williams and Devine
23 Three squared
24 Impudently bold
26 Easter treat for Bullwinkle?
33 Took the wheel
34 Ripken and Coolidge
35 Crone
36 Kilauea flow
37 Substructure for plaster
39 Raisin rum cake
40 Veneration
41 Enterprise crew member
42 Indian lute played with a bow
43 Unlawful oracles?
47 Plane front
48 Funeral info
49 South Korean city
52 Tablet
53 Make lace
56 Collier's breaches?
60 Writer O'Brien
61 Small bay
62 Albacore or bluefin
63 Close
64 Battery terminal
65 Marquee name

DOWN
1 Secure
2 Soon
3 Framing upright
4 Knight's title
5 Part of FDR
6 Tooth cover
7 Negative votes
8 Ice-skater Midori
9 Fellows
10 Without delay!
11 Reindeer bunch
12 500-mi. auto race
13 Forfeiture
18 Cost
19 Reheats
23 Star burst
24 God of Memphis
25 Sniggler's prey
26 Ike's opponent
27 Creep
28 Run-down dwelling
29 Get out of line
30 Chicago hub
31 Wooden shoe
32 Good grief!
37 San __ Obispo, CA
38 Der __ (Adenauer)
39 Thai cash
41 Scrub
42 Milk not to cry over?
44 Interlocking
45 Stirred up
46 Layperson dedicated to religious life
49 Fed. agents
50 Coadjutant
51 Sicilian resort
52 Equestrian sport
53 Track tipster
54 "__ Karenina"
55 Russian ruler
57 By way of
58 Country hotel
59 __ not my job!

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

M	A	L	I	■	S	I	S	■	P	A	R	E	R	S
A	L	E	C	■	H	A	S	■	I	N	A	R	U	T
S	T	E	E	R	I	N	G	■	A	N	N	L	E	E
S	O	R	R	E	L	■	T	A	N	A	G	E	R	S
■	■	■	U	C	L	A	■	P	O	N	E	■	■	■
P	L	A	N	T	■	C	H	E	W	■	R	O	P	E
R	I	N	■	I	N	T	O	■	I	S	S	U	E	R
E	L	I	■	F	A	I	L	U	R	E	■	T	R	I
P	A	T	S	Y	S	■	S	T	E	T	■	D	I	E
S	C	A	T	■	T	A	T	A	■	T	O	O	L	S
■	■	■	A	D	I	N	■	H	O	L	Y	■	■	■
I	N	S	T	A	N	C	E	■	V	E	S	P	E	R
R	A	P	I	N	E	■	S	H	O	R	T	A	G	E
A	N	I	O	N	S	■	M	O	I	■	E	T	O	N
S	O	N	N	Y	S	■	E	N	D	■	R	E	S	T

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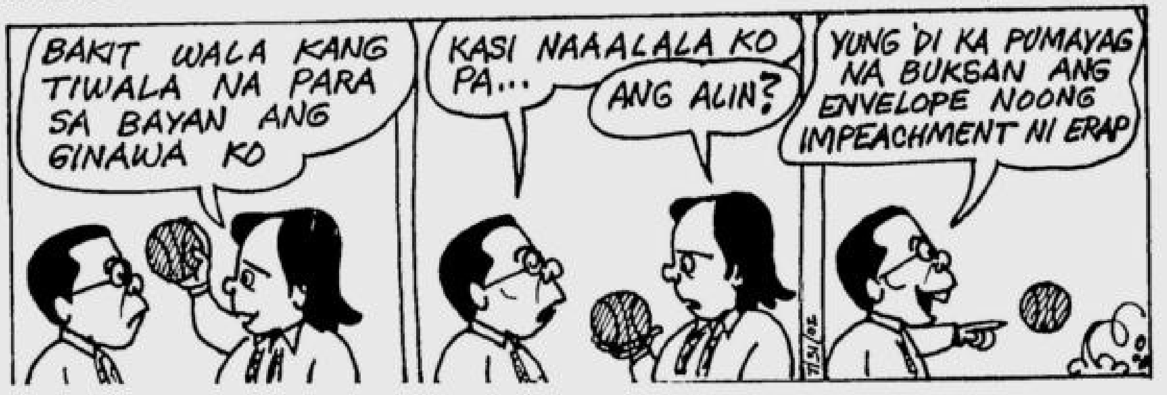
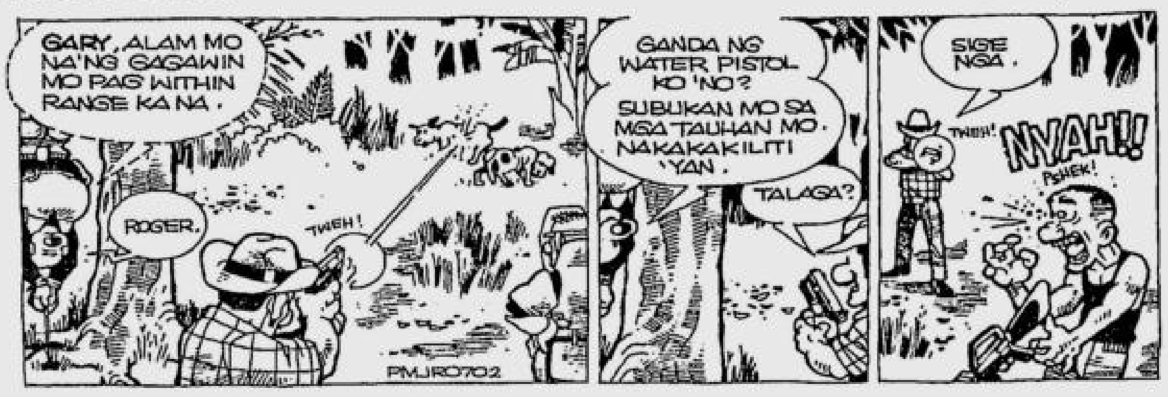
7/31/02

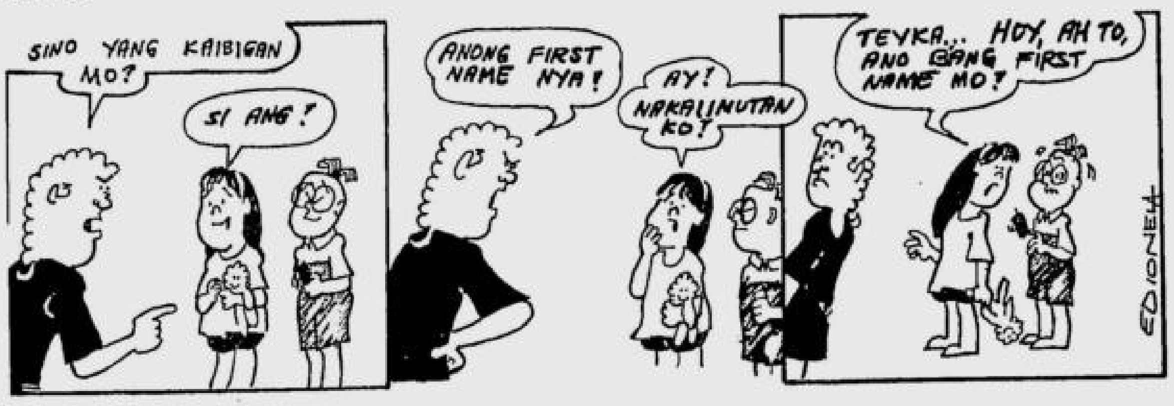
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


BAKIT WALA KANG TIWALA NA PARA SA BAYAN ANG GINAWA KO
KASI NAAALALA KO PA...
ANG ALIN?
YUNG 'DI KA PUMAYAG NA BUKSAN ANG ENVELOPE NOONG IMPEACHMENT NI ERAP

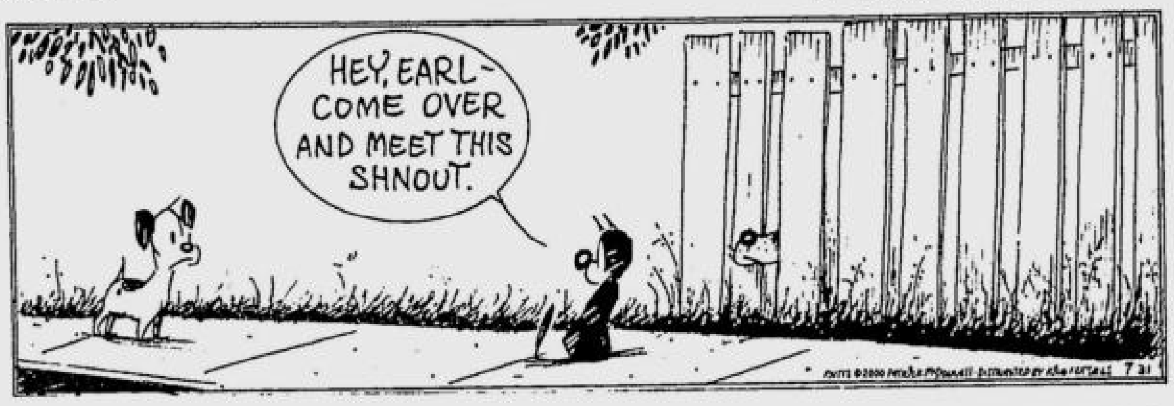
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


GARY, ALAM MO NA'NG GAGAWIN MO PAG WITHIN RANGE KA NA.
ROGER.
TWEH!
PMJR0702
GANDA NG WATER PISTOL KO 'NO?
SUBUKAN MO SA MGA TAUHAN MO. NAKAKAKILITI 'YAN.
TALAGA?
SIGE NGA.
TWEH!
NYAH!!
PSHEK!

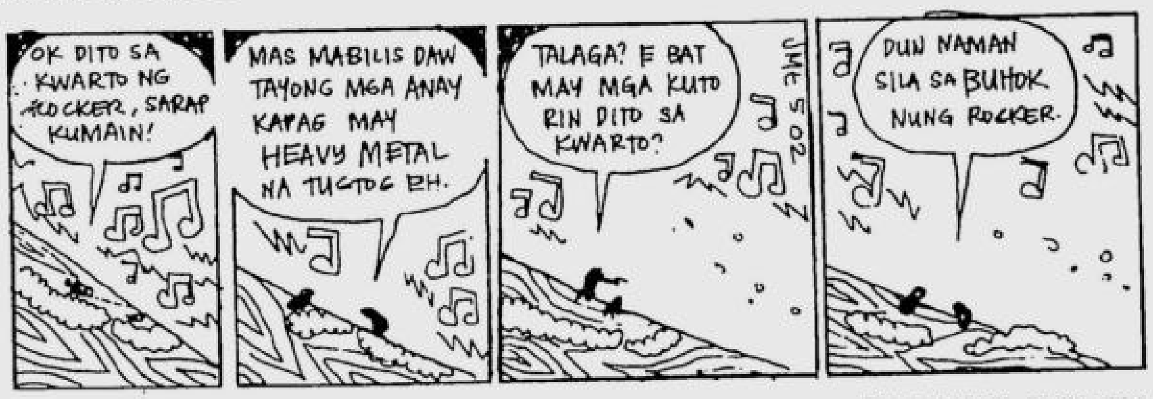
SIMO BY EDGAR DIONELA


SINO YANG KAIBIGAN MO?
SI ANG!
ANONG FIRST NAME NYA!
AY! NAKALIMUTAN KO!
TEYKA... HOY, AH TO, ANO BANG FIRST NAME MO?
EDIONELA

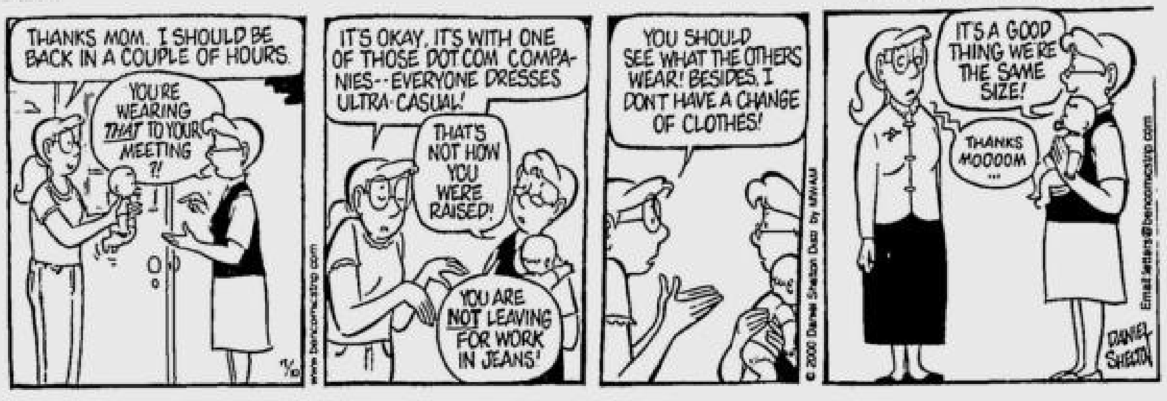
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


HEY, EARL - COME OVER AND MEET THIS SHNOUT.

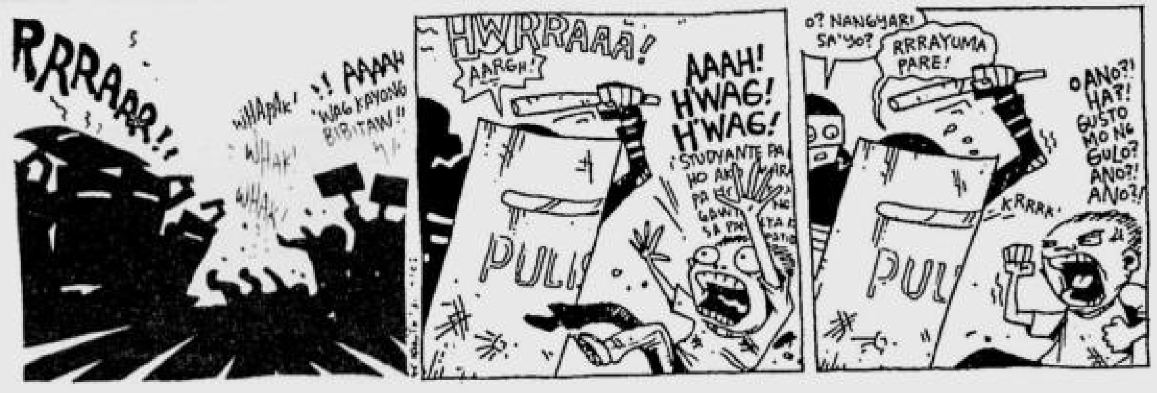
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


OK DITO SA KWARTO NG ROCKER, SARAP KUMAIN!
MAS MABILIS DAW TAYONG MGA ANAY KAPAG MAY HEAVY METAL NA TUGTOG EH.
TALAGA? E BAT MAY MGA KUTO RIN DITO SA KWARTO?
JMT 5 02
DUN NAMAN SILA SA BUHOK NUNG ROCKER.

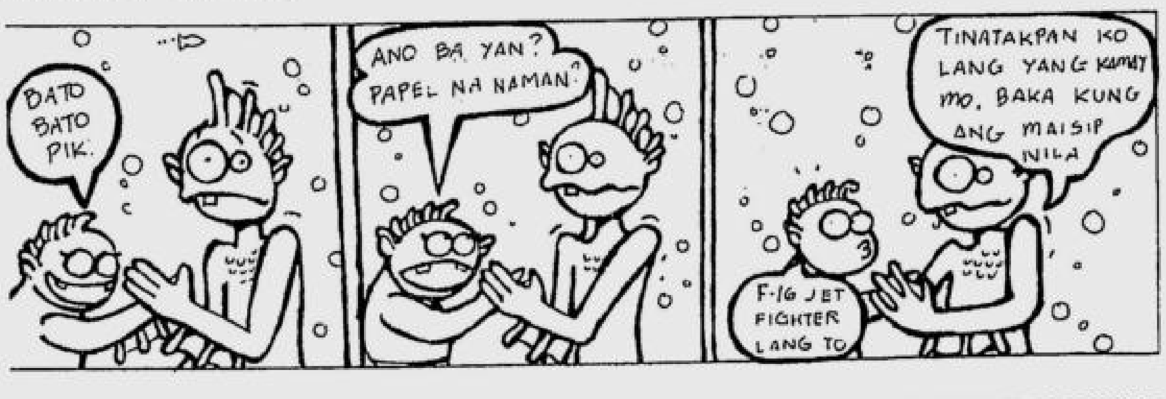
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


THANKS MOM. I SHOULD BE BACK IN A COUPLE OF HOURS.
YOU'RE WEARING THAT TO YOUR MEETING ?!
IT'S OKAY, IT'S WITH ONE OF THOSE DOT COM COMPANIES--EVERYONE DRESSES ULTRA-CASUAL!
THAT'S NOT HOW YOU WERE RAISED!
YOU ARE NOT LEAVING FOR WORK IN JEANS!
YOU SHOULD SEE WHAT THE OTHERS WEAR! BESIDES, I DON'T HAVE A CHANGE OF CLOTHES!
IT'S A GOOD THING WE'RE THE SAME SIZE!
THANKS MOOOOM...
DANIEL SHELTON

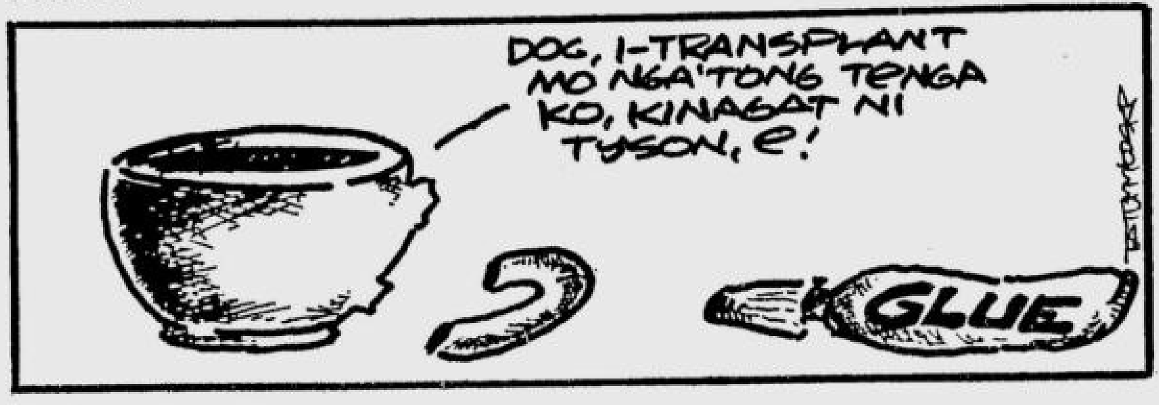
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


RRRAARR!!
WHAPAK!
WHAK!
WHAK!
AAAAH 'WAG KAYONG BIBITAW!!
HWRRAAA!
AARGH!
AAAH! H'WAG! H'WAG!
STUDYANTE PA HO
O? NANGYARI SA'YO?
RRRAYUMA PARE!
O ANO?! HA?! GUSTO MO NG GULO? ANO?! ANO?!
KRRRK
PULI

CHICHOY CHOKOY BY IKOY RICIO


BATO BATO PIK.
ANO BA YAN? PAPEL NA NAMAN.
TINATAKPAN KO LANG YANG KAMAY MO, BAKA KUNG ANG MAISIP NILA
F-16 JET FIGHTER LANG TO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


DOG, I-TRANSPLANT MO NGA'TONG TENGA KO, KINAGAT NI TYSON, E!
GLUE

to be you • to be young • To be you! • to be young

Pamper your skin with milk

MakeOver 911

Kinny Salas

CLEOPATRA truly is a beauty icon. Who hasn't heard of her bathing in yak's milk beauty ritual? She claimed it was responsible for her fair, smooth skin, which, along with her countless charms and sharp intelligence, kept men mesmerized.

She had no idea that she was probably the first one who discovered lactic acid—a great beauty aid for today. Only in the late 20th century did scientists discover the benefits of AHA on skin.

Alpha hydroxy acid reverses the skin's aging process by exfoliating dead skin cells that clog pores, making the skin's surface appear dry, rough and dull or darker-looking. Lactic acid, the AHA derived from milk (not nonfat or skimmed), contains lactokine fluid, helping one maintain an even, fair tone and keeping skin soft and supple.

One trick I learned from Australia is that powdered milk, when massaged onto damp face, leaves skin smoother and fairer because the grains gently exfoliate and the cream formed by water and powder leaves the skin soft, hydrated and whitened. It also keeps working even when washed off. After prolonged use, the skin becomes even in color, lighter and smoother because the exfoliating action keeps pores free of sebum and dead skin debris. I saw results in 10 days.

For oilier skin, use lemon juice or *calamansi* diluted in little water as your toner. For normal to dry skin, rosewater or alcohol-free toners are your best bet.

I know there are enough smoothening and whitening products for the face but what about the rest of the body? There are tons of those in the US like Almay milk plus and milk bar soaps from Sephora. But what are accessible in the Philippines?

The first one I discovered was Johnson's Baby Milk Bath, which costs P16 for a 50-ml bottle and around P62 for the 200-ml bottle. It is used with a puff and takes a very little amount to lather, and it smells like fresh cream and vanilla combined. As I looked around for more, I discovered Palmolive Cream Wash with three variants—coconut milk for very dry skin, milk and honey for normal skin (smells like honey cake or panna cotta), and pure milk for oily and sensitive skin (which smells like full cream milk). It costs P90 and comes in one size only. A soap store called Fresh has milk bars for face and body that give a lot of lather and leave skin soft.

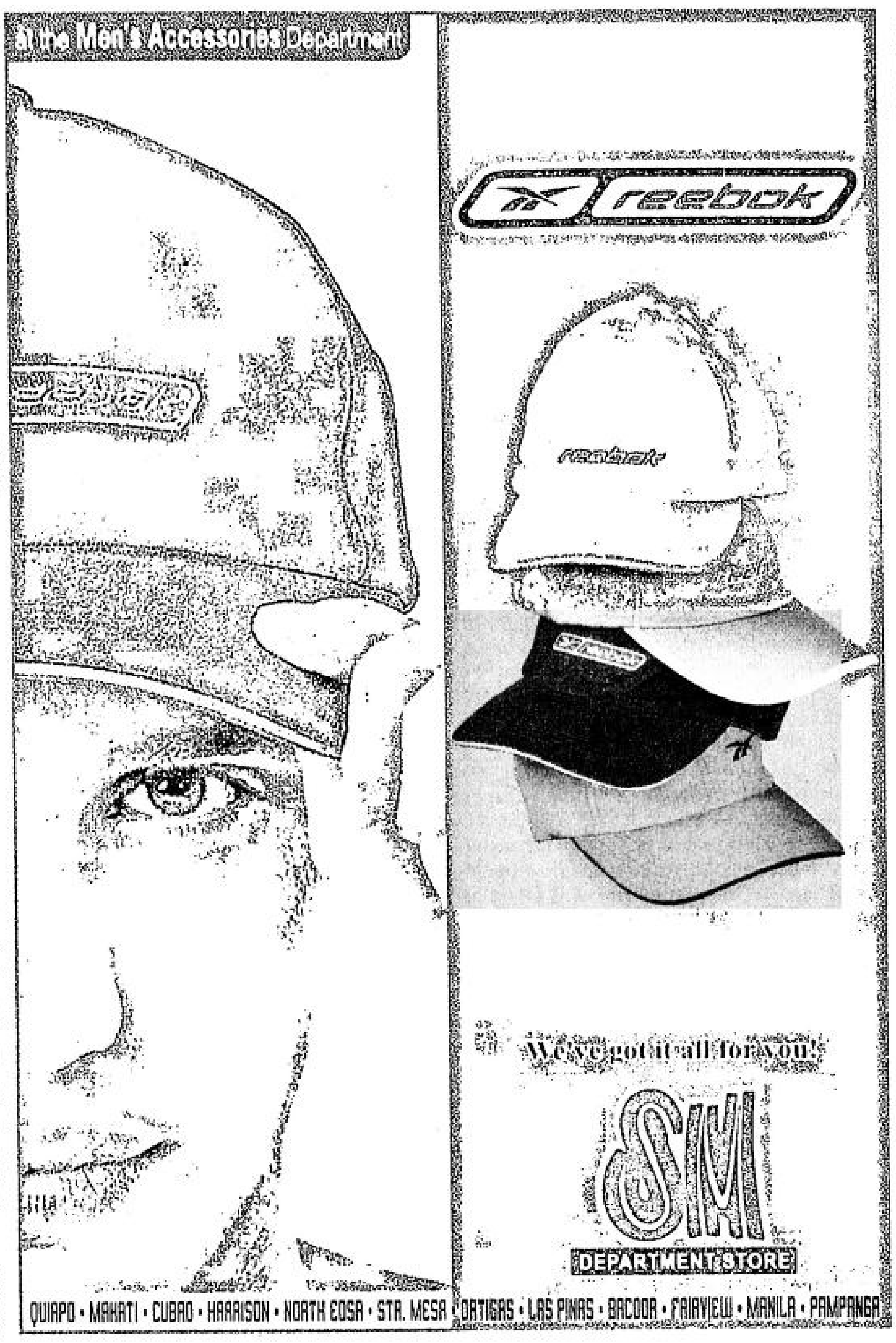
Now can the first two be used for the face as well? It is designed for the body, and as you may have noticed, the skin on the face is very different. Those with sensitive or dry skin may try them but it may be too rich for oilier skin types.

For those who are addicted to milk products, check out Human. They have a milk shampoo that comes in a glass milk bottle. Those with relatives in England should check out Boots Pharmacy for the Full Cream Body Milk lotion in vanilla scent. In the US, there are milk-bath bars in a beauty store called Sephora Brand: Fresh. Almay also has a full line of facial skin care called Milk Plus. They have gel cleansers for normal to oily skin and milk lotion cleansers for dry skin. They have eye creams, treatments and moisturizers.

Other tips to complement the milk scents are vanilla-scented candles, Johnson's pH 5.5 body lotion, Vaseline baby powder, Victoria Secret's scents in Dream Angel's line like Heavenly and Divine, and Gap Heaven cologne.

Survey with guys on milk baths—the girls smell yummy, clean and edible! Studies show that both girls and guys are very much attracted to scents that remind them of happy days in their childhood, like a cake baking in the oven, passing a candy store, the scent of the beach, their mother's garden and freshly washed linen. In my opinion, nothing makes children feel more pampered and nurtured than the smell of milk.

For questions or products you want to road-test, write to MakeOver 911, PDI Lifestyle, or fax to 897-4805



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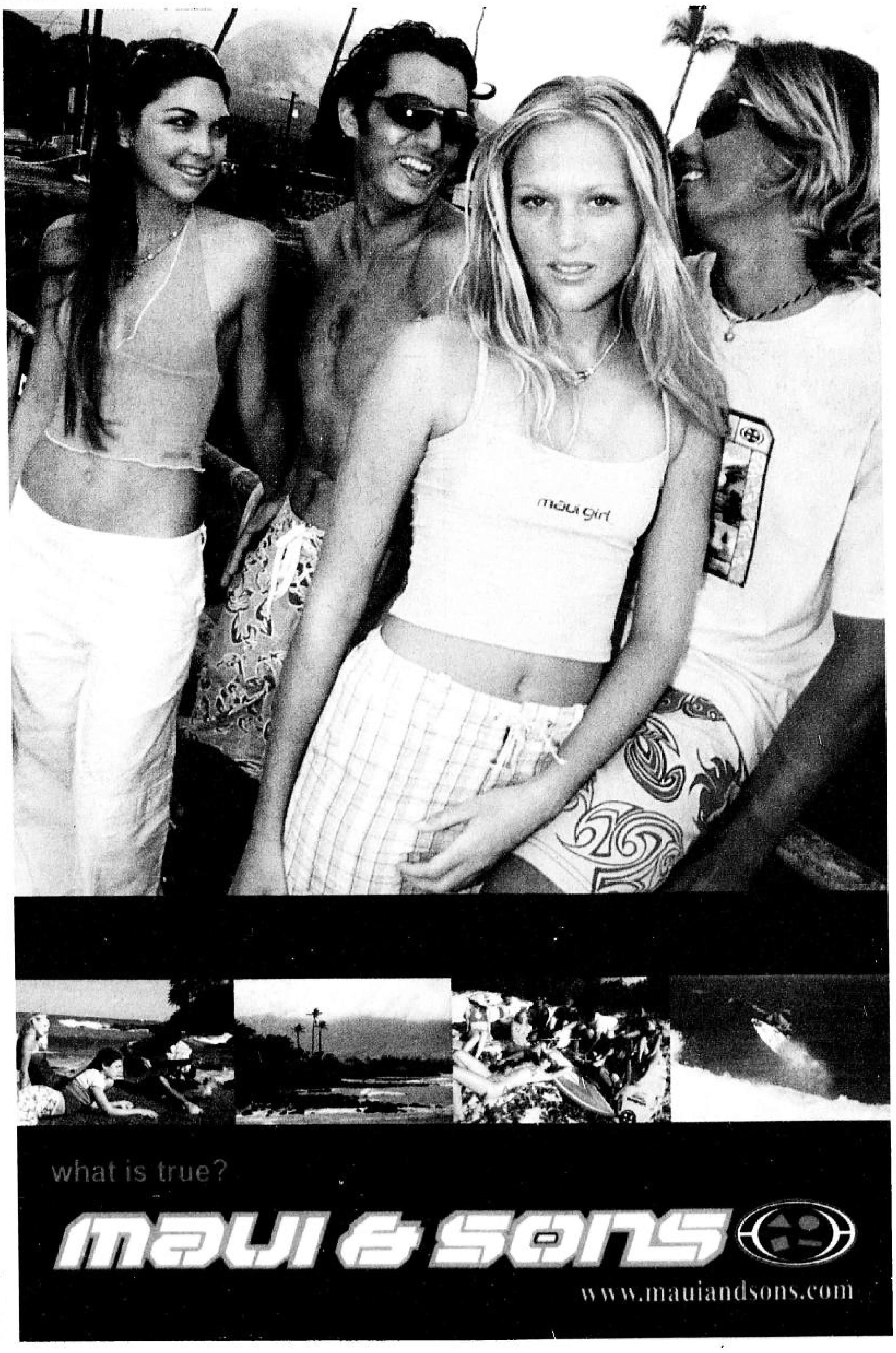
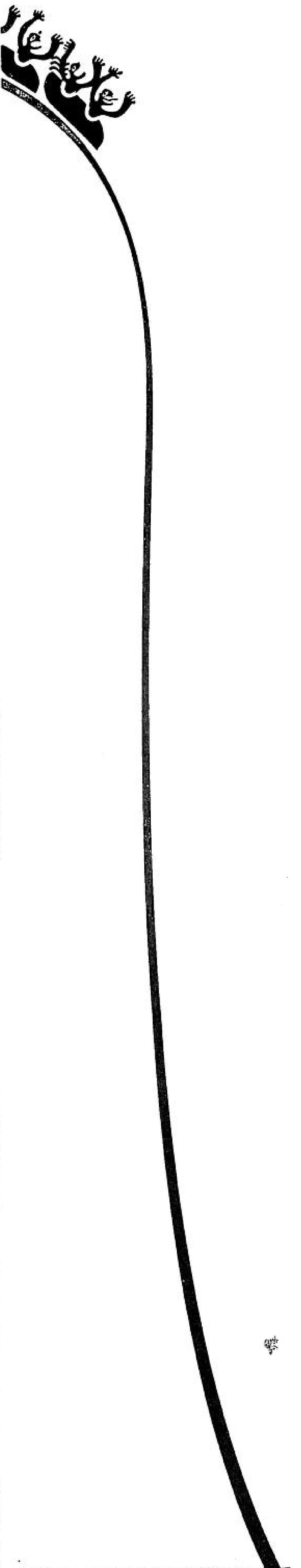


what is true?

maui & sons

www.mauiandsons.com

Enchanted Kingdom



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'Dear Diary' with a difference

An online journal discusses the joys and pains of womanhood

By Jason Doplito
2bU! Correspondent

Renaissance Girl
http://monaveluz.tripod.com

YOU KNOW what it feels like to "accidentally" stumble on your sister's diary and laugh your head off, learning of her guy fantasies and her other daydreams? Well, there's something better than that, and you don't have to feel guilty about it.

Web logs, or "blogs" for short, are steadily gaining popularity in the country. Since two years ago, people all over the world have made known their personal adventures and experiences through their respective blogs, which is nothing different from online journals. They offer a peek into the lives of people whom you really have no business with, in the first place. And because blogs are easier to manage and modify as compared to an actual homepage, more and more Pinoys are tempted to put up their own.

Try checking out the Renaissance Girl at http://monaveluz.tripod.com. Started in February, she has since gained numerous fans who can't get enough of her wit and skill in putting words together. And yes, it's a big possibility her diary is more interesting than your sister's. Just go to her April 30 post, in which she reduced a Swede national into one, tiny male appendage, thanks to her ability to curse in six languages.

Irreverent

Mona, Renaissance Girl's real name, said that she started the blog because she wanted an outlet in which she could be as "irreverent" as she could be, away from her too-good image that she's usually known for, both at work and at home. "Writing my thoughts has always been my outlet," she explained. For someone who has maintained an actual paper diary since she was 12, a blog isn't really surprising for this technology-savvy girl.

Having maintained two websites five years ago, she realized how easy it would be for her to consolidate and update these two sites by using one blog service provider. Mona has since then made use of certain available blogging tools, such as integrating it with WAP on her mobile phone, so she can update her web entries as soon as they happen, even without a computer. Her blog also has a comments board, so readers can react on particular posts. "The online audience is a fun factor. They serve as a virtual support/critique group," she adds.

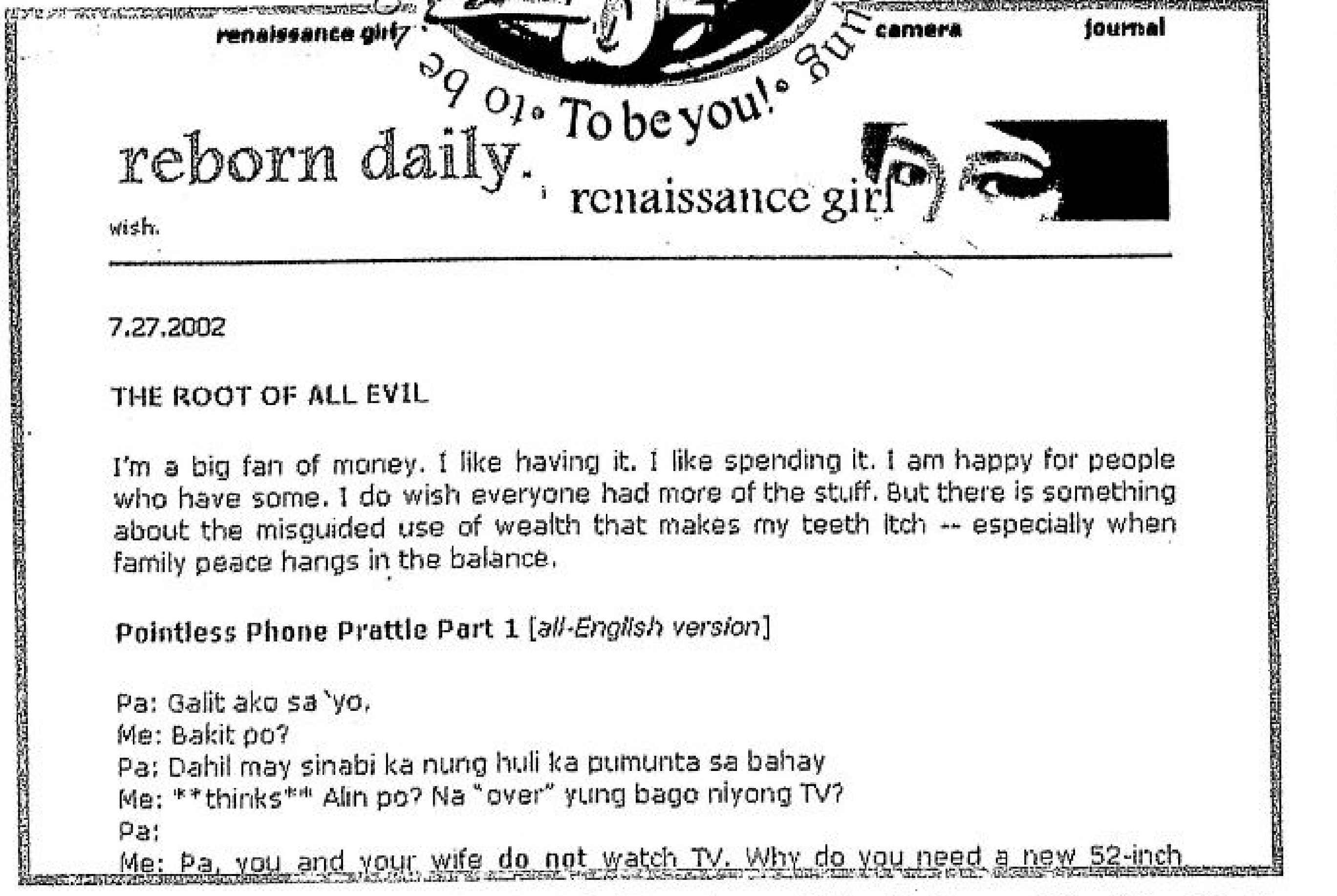
There is nothing mushy about the Rennaisance Girl, who is also a "corporate slave" (her own words), wife and mother of two. Her thoughts on love and precious moments tend to be sentimental than sappy, and really, that is a big change from the usual diaries we all get to accidentally read. During Mother's Day, she recounted how her nine-year-old-son stalked Bentong of the noontime show "MTB," before offering to explain that "despite being raised a stuck-up *colegiala*," she managed to "spawn a non-hypocrite." Then there was her entry titled "Going Down Memory Lane corner Sesame Street" (April 18), where she lists the things she misses most about the children's program, prior to her realization of the sexual tension between Bert and Ernie.

Shopping

Like most women, Mona loves shopping, especially for shoes. And perhaps, one of her funniest entries would be "Imelda's Disciple" (May 10), her homage to her black leather Ferragamo sling-backs. She had been obsessing about them that she wrote, "I was willing to feed my boys 'Spam' and 'Lucky Me' for a month just to have them," and "I hang around a lot the office elevator lobby for minutes so I can admire the reflected silhouette on a nearby glass door of what looks like my long thin legs," before concluding, "(There's) nothing like covering one's feet in dead animal hide to lift a woman's spirits."

But her more serious entries are probably the best. A woman is already a force to reckon with, what more an angry Mona, as in her three-part entry, "Why a Woman May Want a Penis," written last June 26. The subject of her loathing was the blatant display of the University of Asia and the Pacific's (UA&P) sexist attitude over its choice of accepting only male students for its Entrepreneurial Management Program, despite its being a co-ed school. There, she lists the implications UA&P make of women, at the end of which are pictures of Cory Aquino and Gloria Arroyo. The caption read: "Women are good enough to be presidents of the Philippines, but not as BS Entrepreneurial Management students at UA&P."

Clearly, one can spend hours reading through the Renaissance Girl's web log. Check her online journal. Beyond hot guys and dream dates, there is a life out there, and it doesn't have to be a secret.



renaissance girl camera journal

reborn daily. renaissance girl

wish.

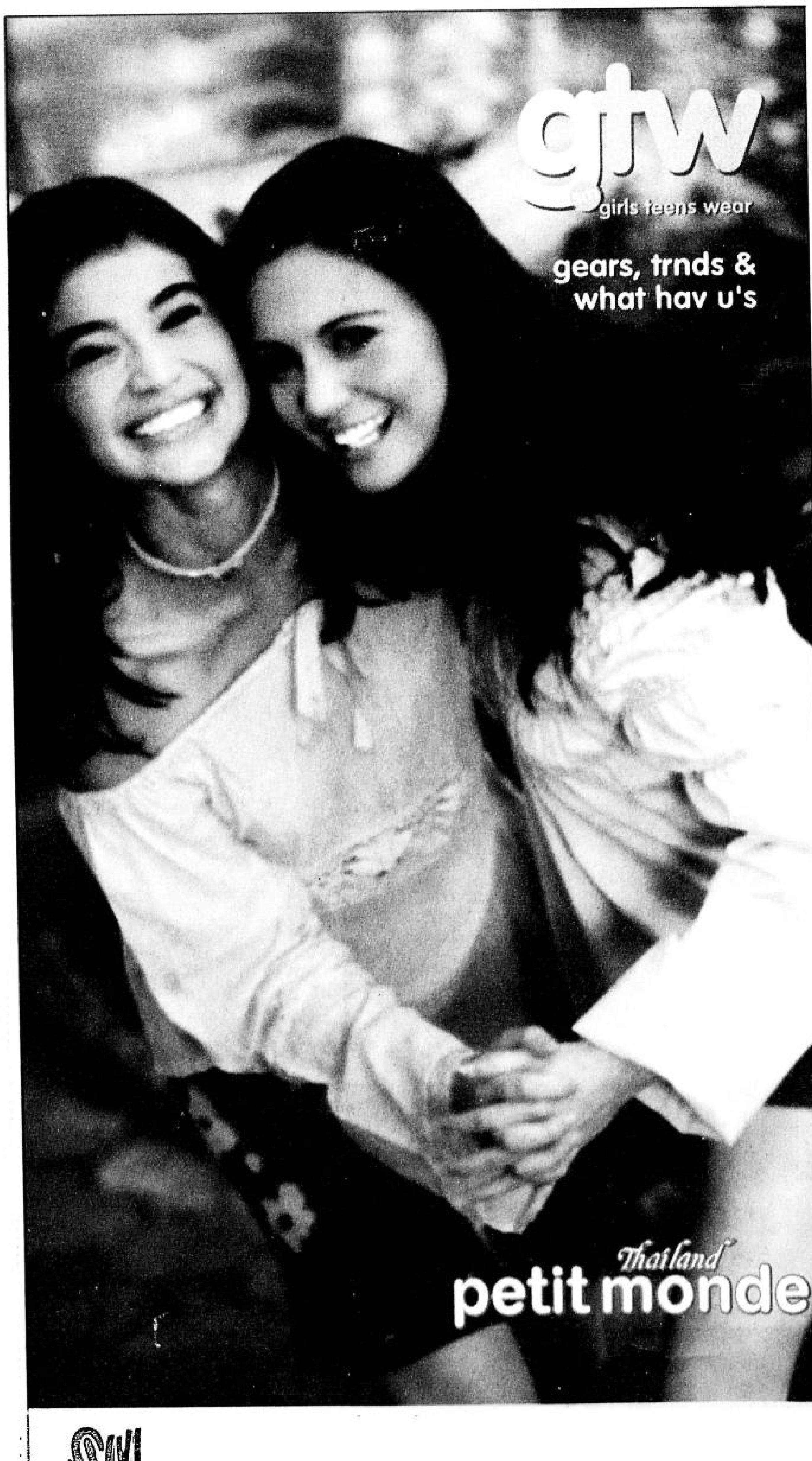
7.27.2002

THE ROOT OF ALL EVIL

I'm a big fan of money. I like having it. I like spending it. I am happy for people who have some. I do wish everyone had more of the stuff. But there is something about the misguided use of wealth that makes my teeth itch -- especially when family peace hangs in the balance.

Pointless Phone Prattle Part 1 [*all-English version*]

Pa: Galit ako sa 'yo.
Me: Bakit po?
Pa: Dahil may sinabi ka nung huli ka pumunta sa bahay
Me: **thinks** Alin po? Na "over" yung bago niyong TV?
Pa:
Me: Pa, you and your wife do not watch TV. Why do you need a new 52-inch



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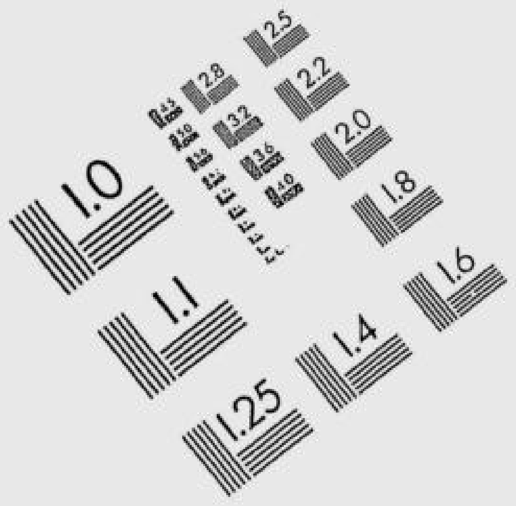
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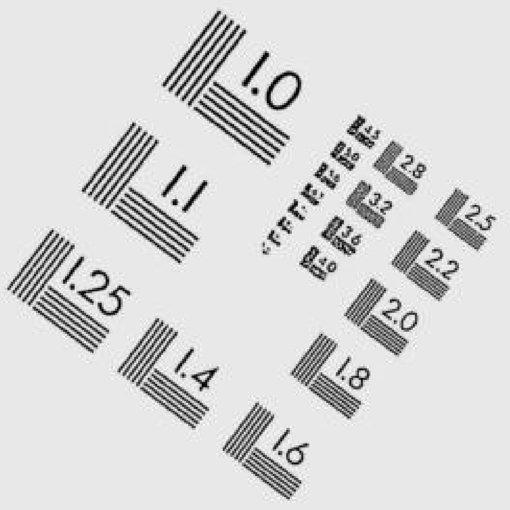
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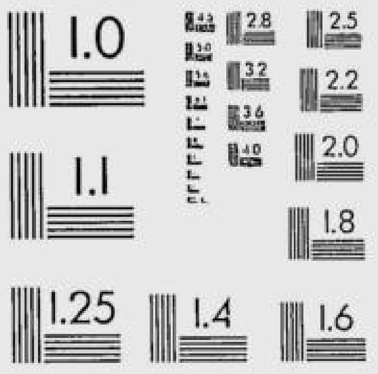
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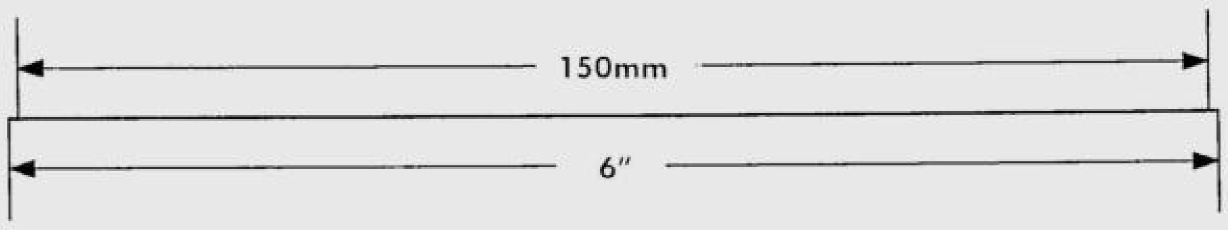

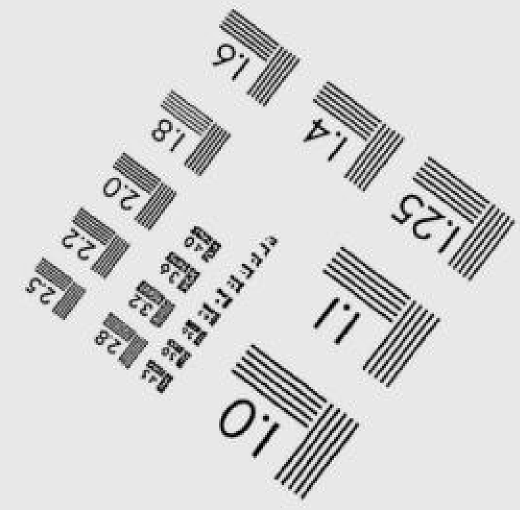
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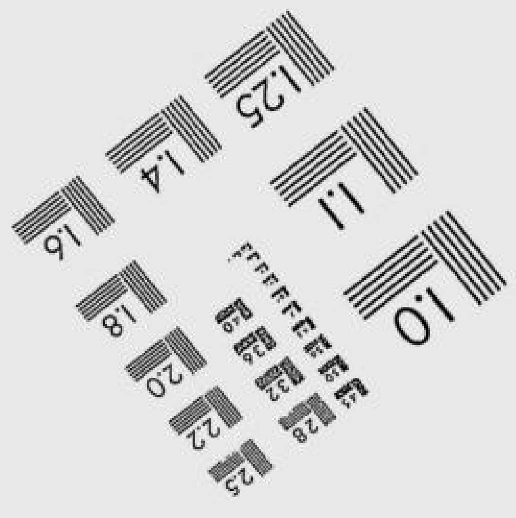
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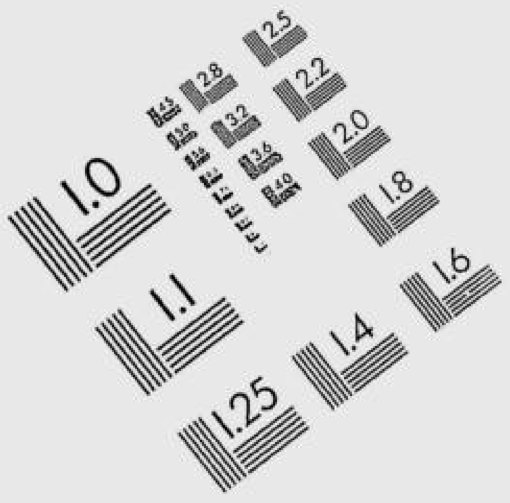
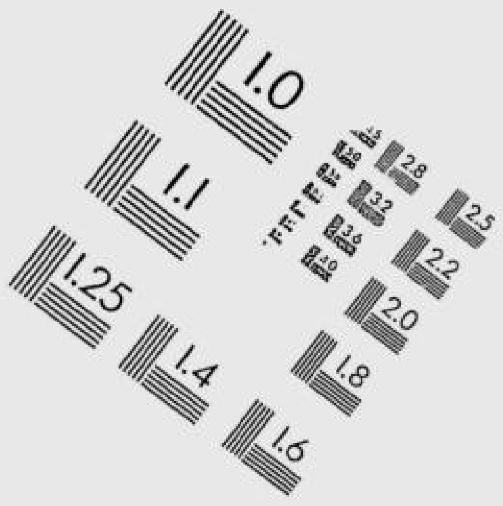
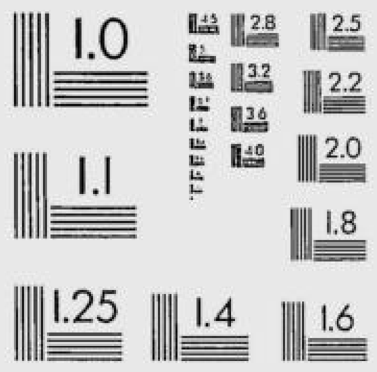
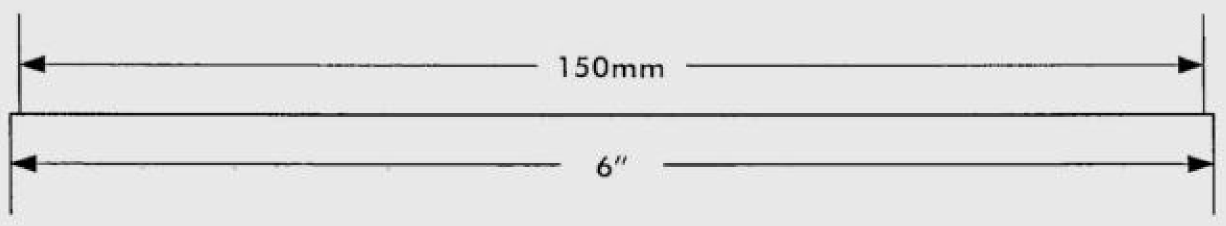
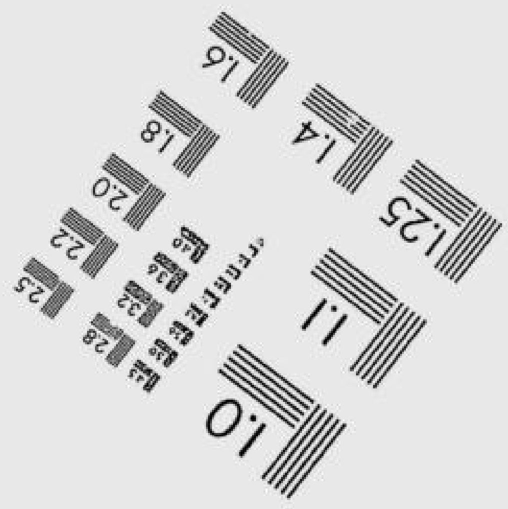
TEST TARGET (MT-3)

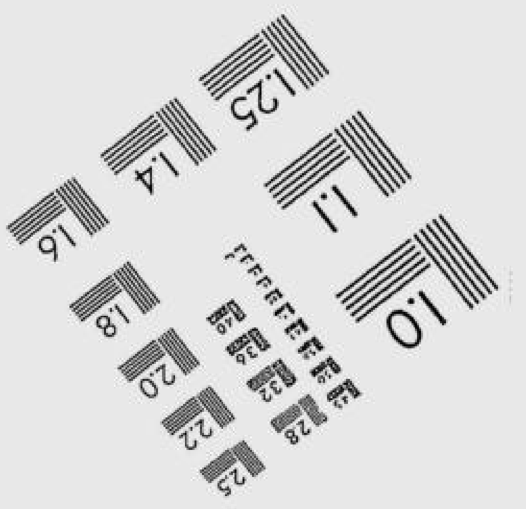





1.0
1.1
1.25
1.4
1.6
1.8
2.0
2.2
2.5
2.8
3.2
3.6
4.0







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